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A

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 56 (a)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Notification of nuclear tests

Note by the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 30 November 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/38 C, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Calls upon all States to comply with resolution 41/59 N;
>
> "2. Again urges each of the States conducting nuclear explosions to provide to the Secretary-General within one week of each nuclear explosion such data referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 41/59 N as they may have available;
>
> "3. Invites all other States to provide to the Secretary-General any such data on nuclear explosions they may have available;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to make this information immediately available to all Member States and to submit to the General Assembly annually a register of the information provided on nuclear explosions during the preceding twelve months."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the relevant information received from three member States - Australia, New Zealand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - during the preceding 12 months (15 September 1989-14 September 1990) is reproduced in section II of the present note in the form of an annual register.

3. The information presented in section II was previously circulated in documents A/45/129 and Add.1, and A/44/87/Add.6 and 7.

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II. ANNUAL REGISTER

A. Data provided by States

AUSTRALIA

Data on nuclear explosions derived from Australian seismological facilities and from institutions in other countries co-operating in the monitoring of earthquakes and nuclear explosions

Quarterly reports on presumed underground nuclear explosions*

April-June 1989

Month	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude	Estimated yield (kilotonnes)	Sequence number
1989						
April	nil					
May	11	1645	Mururoa	5.6	20-80	89/7
May	15	1310	Nevada	4.4	<10	89/8
May	20	1759	Mururoa	4.5*	2	89/9
May	26	1807	Nevada	3.7	<10	89/10
June	03	1730	Mururoa	5.0	10-40	89/11
June	10	1730	Fangataufa	5.5	20-80	89/12
June	22	2115	Nevada	5.2	20-80	89/13
June	27	1530	Nevada	4.9	10-40	89/14

* For complete explanatory notes, see A/45/129/Add.1, annex.

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July-September 1989

Month 1989	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude	Estimated yield (kilotonnes)	Sequence number
July	08	0346	East Kazakhstan	5.5	20-80	89/15
August	nil					
September	02	0416	East Kazakhstan	5.0	5-20	89/16
September	14	1500	Nevada	4.7	5-20	89/17

October-December 1989

Month 1989	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude	Estimated yield (kilotonnes)	Sequence number
October	04	1130	East Kazakhstan	4.7	<10	89/18
October	19	0950	East Kazakhstan	5.9	40-150	89/19
October	24	1630	Mururoa	5.4	10-40	89/20
October	31	1530	Nevada	5.7	>80	89/21
October	31	1657	Mururoa	5.2	10-40	89/22
November	15	2020	Nevada	-	<10	89/23
November	20	1729	Mururoa	5.3	10-40	89/24
November	27	1700	Fangataufa	5.6	20-80	89/25
December	08	1500	Nevada	5.4	40-150	89/26

January-March 1990

Month 1990	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude	Estimated yield (kilotonnes)	Sequence number
January	nil					
February	nil					
March	10	1600	Nevada	5.1	20-80	90/1

April-June 1990

Month 1990	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude	Estimated yield (kilotonnes)	Sequence number
April	nil					
May	26	0800	Lop Nor, China	5.5	20-80	90/02
June	02	1730	Mururoa	5.3	10-40	90/03
June	07	1730	Mururoa	4.3*	<10	90/04
June	13	1600	Nevada	5.6*	40-150	90/05

* Magnitude estimated using Australian seismic data only.

NEW ZEALAND

Data on nuclear explosions at Mururoa Atoll, 1989*

Geographic co-ordinates: 21°50'S latitude
138°55'W longitude

Date	Time (Universal time) (hours)	Yield estimate (kilotonnes)
11 May	1645	15
20 May	1759	2
3 June	1730	20
24 October	1630	25
31 October	1657	20
20 November	1729	30

Data on nuclear explosions at Fangataufa Atoll, 1989*

Geographic co-ordinates: 22°15'S latitude
138°45'W longitude

Date	Time (Universal time) (hours)	Yield estimate (kilotonnes)
10 June	1730	70
27 November	1700	90

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* For complete explanatory notes, see A/45/129, annex.

B. Information provided by States

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS*

1. On 4 October 1989, at 2.30 p.m., Moscow time, an underground nuclear explosion with a yield of up to 20 kilotonnes was conducted in the Soviet Union at a test site in the Semipalatinsk region.

2. The test was conducted with a view to refining military technology.

3. Radiation levels at the test area and outside the test site are normal.

4. On 19 October 1989, at 12.50 p.m., Moscow time, an underground nuclear explosion with a yield of up to 20 and 75 kilotonnes was conducted in the Soviet Union at a test site in the Semipalatinsk region.

5. The test was conducted with a view to refining military technology.

6. Radiation levels at the test area and outside the test site are normal.

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* For complete explanatory notes, see A/44/87/Add.6 and 7.

UNITED NATIONS

A

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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance to Mozambique

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 43/208 of 20 December 1988, entitled "Assistance to Mozambique", the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial, technical and material assistance required by Mozambique; to continue to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations system, in close co-operation with the Government of Mozambique, in the implementation of the country's emergency and rehabilitation programmes; to keep the situation in Mozambique under constant review; and to maintain close contact with Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system. The present report, which has been finalized in consultation with the Government of Mozambique, is prepared pursuant to that resolution to reflect the implementation of the emergency and rehabilitation programmes for Mozambique.

2. The Secretary-General dispatched two inter-agency missions to Mozambique in 1989 and 1990 to assess, in close co-operation with the Government, the situation in the country and to define the country's priority emergency and rehabilitation requirements. Appeal documents for presentation to donors' conferences held in New York in March 1989 and March 1990 were prepared on the basis of those missions.

3. The 1989 appeal included essential rehabilitation as well as emergency requirements, as rehabilitative support was needed to provide minimum assistance to the displaced population severely affected by the combined impact of war and natural disasters. Thus, in addition to the requirements for food aid, relief and survival items and logistics, rehabilitation inputs in the fields of agriculture, water, health and education were also included, as well as structural rehabilitation projects (e.g. road and small port rehabilitation and regeneration of the country's social infrastructure).

4. In November 1989, the meeting of the World Bank's consultative group on Mozambique agreed, with the full support of the Government, to expand the scope of the country's economic rehabilitation programme in order to incorporate into it a revised national strategy for poverty alleviation and socio-economic growth encompassing both the rural and urban areas and integrating all structural rehabilitation activities. The fundamental concept behind the decision was that help to strengthen and rebuild the country's capacity to handle basic poverty alleviation from the ground up should take place within the framework of a systematic and long-term strategy. Concomitantly, as regards the 1990 appeal, the Government decided that it should concentrate specifically on the alleviation of suffering caused by the continuous war situation. The economic rehabilitation programme thus concentrates on the provision of free food, relief and survival items to 1.7 million accessible displaced people, as well as on the provision of the necessary logistical support for the delivery of those items. The appeal covers emergency health care, supplementary feeding for children, the distribution of seeds and tools to displaced families, the improvement of basic water supply and the provision of essential school facilities for the displaced, as well as a small number of emergency rehabilitation activities linked to the immediate requirements of the displaced. Market food aid is no longer included in the appeal.

5. A discussion of the rehabilitation and emergency activities for the period 1989-1990 is contained in the comprehensive report prepared by the Government of Mozambique in collaboration with the United Nations for the 1989 donors' conference held in New York. 1/ The following chapters of the present report cover information on emergency assistance to Mozambique for the current year. The report was prepared by the Office of the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations at Maputo, at the request of the Secretary-General.

II. THE EVOLUTION OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMME IN MOZAMBIQUE

6. Since gaining independence in 1975, Mozambique has been forced to divert much of its limited material and human resources to the defence and support of its population. The decade-long war of attrition waged by RENAMO (Mozambique National Resistance) has destroyed much of the economic and social infrastructures of the country, paralysing its productive capacity and that of its people. As a result, Mozambique is now dependent on external aid for 90 per cent of its market and relief cereal needs.

7. The country's per capita income level (estimated at $US 150 per annum) is among the lowest in the world. Infant mortality is the second highest in the world, with one out of every three infants dying before reaching the age of five. Recent studies by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reveal that 90 per cent of the population is living below the poverty level, with 60 per cent of that number living in "absolute poverty".

8. By late 1986 the combined impact of natural disasters and the externally supported destabilization war resulted in a situation where 3.2 million Mozambican peasants had been displaced or affected within the country. The Government no longer had sufficient resources to provide the food and other basic commodities necessary to avert widespread starvation.

9. The first international appeal for emergency assistance for Mozambique was launched at Geneva in February 1987. Over $US 330 million was pledged by the donor community, including the monetary equivalent of 755,100 tons of food aid. This was necessary to meet not only the needs of the totally destitute displaced and severely affected families in the rural areas, who received free food, but also the rural wage earners and urban dwellers who purchased the food at subsidized prices through the market distribution system.

10. The Government of Mozambique developed an emergency co-ordination system, directed at the central level by the National Executive Emergency Commission, to manage and monitor relief operations and to co-ordinate its emergency programme on a regular basis within the Government, as well as with the donor organizations. The previously established Department for the Combat and Prevention of Natural Disasters (DPCCN) assumed major responsibility for the transport and distribution of food aid and relief items to the affected population.

11. In January 1987 an ambitious structural adjustment programme (economic rehabilitation programme) was also launched by the Government. Focusing on

macro-economic policy reforms (exchange rates, trade policies, pricing policies, budget and credit), the country's economic decline was reversed and a 4 per cent growth in GNP was recorded in 1988.

12. In 1988/89, the second emergency appeal for assistance to Mozambique, launched at Maputo, adopted a programme that included essential rehabilitation as well as emergency requirements. Necessary inputs to provide minimum assistance to the displaced and severely affected in the agriculture, water, health and education sectors were included, in addition to the basic requirements for food, relief items and logistics.

13. This approach was continued in the 1989/90 appeal, with additional structural rehabilitation projects (e.g. road and small port rehabilitation, regeneration of the country's social infrastructures and so on) designed to help rebuild the socio-economic base required for the displaced and severely affected people to regain basic self-sufficiency in food production.

14. In November 1989, the meeting of the World Bank's consultative group on Mozambique agreed, with the full support of the Government, to expand the scope of the economic rehabilitation programme to incorporate a far-reaching strategy for poverty alleviation and socio-economic growth. This expanded economic and social rehabilitation programme integrated all structural rehabilitation activities into a national strategy for rural reconstruction and poverty alleviation in both the urban and rural areas.

15. The programme will be carried out initially in 40 priority districts and will include such measures as the recovery of small-scale irrigation schemes, rebuilding of roads, bridges and warehouses; rehabilitation of schools, health posts and public service outlets; reactivation of rural marketing systems; and reinforcement of local government's institutional capacity. The fundamental operational concept behind the strategy is to strengthen and rebuild the country's capacity to handle basic poverty alleviation from the ground up.

16. The emergency situation in Mozambique will continue for some time. The displaced Mozambican families will continue to need urgent assistance as long as the internal conflict continues to rage. When the hostilities cease, massive support will be required to start the rehabilitation of rural communities. The international community must continue to play an important role and the assistance of the United Nations and its agencies will be critical in the reconstruction process.

17. The declining donor response to urgent needs over the past years, falling from $US 330 million in 1987 to $US 104.4 million in 1990, has limited the Government of Mozambique's capacity to provide adequate relief assistance to the internally displaced families and to those refugees who have voluntarily returned from neighbouring countries. This is unfortunate, as child mortality is one of the highest in the world and acute malnutrition is prevalent and increasing in both rural areas and the overcrowded urban centres.

18. Over 1.7 million Mozambicans within the country need direct relief assistance, according to the most recent assessments. The food supply situation is precarious and more commitments are critical for both free relief distribution and the market sector. Additional amounts of at least 90,000 tons of maize for relief and 200,000 tons for market sales must be pledged if the spiral of declining nutritional levels is to be broken.

19. The United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations has called for the establishment of a minimum reserve of 60,000 tons of cereals in order to create the capacity to respond to crisis situations.

20. Over 200,000 Mozambicans have spontaneously returned from neighbouring countries, but the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been limited in its response as a result of low funding and inadequate donor support.

21. The evolving political situation in Mozambique and throughout southern Africa indicates that the country may be in transition from a war emergency to peace-time rebuilding. However, that recovery effort will require assistance to enable the one million Mozambican refugees to return to their lands and re-start production.

22. Without adequate resources, the already strained logistics network could break down, provoking widespread starvation in isolated communities not currently reached by the emergency programme.

23. Rehabilitation and reconstruction will take many years. The United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations will have an increased responsibility to bring together United Nations agencies and other international organizations in order to reinforce the Government's capacity at district and provincial levels to implement the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

III. THE 1990/91 EMERGENCY APPEAL

A. The displaced and affected population

24. The current appeal, launched in New York in April 1990, prioritized relief assistance for displaced people and returnees living in rural areas. In early 1990, two million displaced people were in need of food assistance in varying degrees. However, a part of that population was inaccessible or partly self-sufficient. For that reason and also because of security and logistic constraints bearing on the provision of emergency assistance, the appeal called for support for only 1.4 million displaced people in the 10 provinces of the country. In addition, it was estimated that 154,000 Mozambican refugees, out of the more than one million who had fled to neighbouring countries, would return and require assistance to resettle within Mozambique during the appeal period.

25. However, it has since become apparent that higher numbers need assistance than those identified in February when the appeal document was prepared. The reopening of access roads to a number of areas and the liberation of several other zones has increased the number of those requiring emergency assistance.

26. Government/United Nations inter-agency missions to three provinces and reports from non-governmental organizations working at field level indicate that at least 300,000 more displaced Mozambicans are in critical need of relief aid than was specified in the 1990/91 appeal, bringing the total of those requiring assistance to 1.7 million.

27. In Zambézia Province the recent military operations and population movements have added 210,000 people to the list of beneficiaries of the emergency programme. Since several localities can now be reached by road with military escort, the distribution infrastructure urgently needs to be strengthened in order to respond to the increased demand.

28. In Gaza Province, the government/United Nations inter-agency mission verified that, as a result of large-scale recent displacements of population, the number of persons requiring relief assistance had grown by 69,000 since the preparation of the appeal.

29. In southern Niassa Province, as a result of Mozambicans returning from Malawi and from the neighbouring provinces of Nampula and Zambézia and increased attacks around the isolated districts of Maúa and Nipepe, at least 20,000 additional persons should be added to the beneficiary list.

30. Many fleeing from military offensives have been living under RENAMO and in war zones for several years and are suffering from severe malnutrition. They arrive in overcrowded areas where there is scant possibility of enough land to regain self-sufficiency. Often they arrive completely destitute, having lost all personal belongings, and almost all are in need of urgent medical assistance. Without additional food aid and logistics support, there are grave risks that malnutrition could become widespread famine by the end of 1990.

31. If the current efforts by the Government of Mozambique to settle the protracted war come to fruition, the security situation could improve dramatically. If the populations that were previously inaccessible could be reached by relief programmes, and if, as a result of such improvements in security, externally displaced people now living in Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe returned in large numbers, relief needs within Mozambique would more than double.

32. On the other hand, if conditions in the country were to deteriorate further, the number of displaced persons requiring food aid would also continue to increase.

B. Security and logistic constraints

33. Lack of security remains the main constraint affecting all activities of the emergency programme. The nature of the insurgency varies from province to province. An area that has been peaceful may suddenly be subject to attacks.

34. Intensified military activity in rural areas of Zambézia, Tete, Sofala and Manica has forced many families to flee to the relative safety of district towns.

In Maputo and Gaza provinces there has been an increasing number of attacks over the last 12 months. The Beira Corridor, which attracted large numbers of displaced people because of its relative safety, has also been subject to attacks and sabotage.

35. Few districts are freely accessible without protection. In Tete, protection of convoys to deliver relief supplies is essential. In Niassa only 2 per cent of the displaced beneficiaries can be reached without protection. Zambézia Province has 30 per cent of the total displaced beneficiaries in the country and almost 70 per cent of these can be reached only by military convoys and/or by airlift.

36. On the other hand, accessibility to a number of districts has improved since February 1990, owing not only to the recapture of various localities previously occupied by RENAMO, but also as a result of government efforts to repair and improve the road infrastructure.

37. In Zambézia Province, five districts that had previously been supplied through continuous airlift have now become accessible by road. In June, a convoy of relief trucks reached the district of Machaze in Manica Province after several years of isolation.

38. The need to organize convoys with military escorts greatly extends turn-around time and reduces unit productivity. In the southern provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane, with the support of some donors, it was possible to purchase and armour 12 trucks to escort government convoys. As a result, by the end of 1989 more than 36 convoys to Gaza and Inhambane had delivered over 10,000 tons of relief supplies, without one single loss, despite increased armed attacks in the region. In contrast, in the same period, the province of Sofala lost 10 trucks to attacks. Some 45 trucks have arrived since April, mostly those promised in previous appeals. The revised calculation is that, at a minimum, 33 additional 9-ton trucks and 19 tractors with capacity to haul 5 tons are needed to respond to the current transport needs. To handle the more difficult situation in Zambézia, donor initiatives will be necessary to provide additional trucks and protection equipment or the financial resources for acquiring them.

39. Responsibility for the distribution of emergency commodities (including those intended for returning externally displaced persons) rests with the Department for the Combat and Prevention of Natural Disaster (DPCCN), the government relief agency. While some transport is contracted, the need to utilize scarce resources as efficiently as possible requires that all distributions of relief assistance continue to be co-ordinated at DPCCN.

40. The underlying objective of the logistics support component of the emergency programme is to contribute, when feasible, to lasting solutions to the country's transport problems. While emergency commodities can be moved to key distribution points by rail and sea, road transport is the critical component, being the final link to the beneficiary. The key difficulty in the transport chain is the shortage of trucks for distribution at the district level.

41. Airlifting should be very much a last resort operation after every other transport alternative has been explored. Nevertheless, there are several parts of the country where air transport remains the only way to support a dependent population. Airlift operations currently serve 15 districts that are otherwise inaccessible. The current monthly airlift requirement, adjusted to account for increased needs in Niassa and a reduction in the displaced population, which can only be reached by air in Zambézia, is 1,727 tons at a cost of $US 1.1 million per month.

C. Food aid and nutrition

42. The ration provided to displaced persons is 350 g of maize, 40 g of beans and 10 g of vegetable oil per person per day. This is merely 1,500 kilo calories per day or only enough to sustain life if a person is inactive. It would be insufficient for families who are expected to open up new agricultural land.

43. The appeal stressed that the request for 229,000 tons of emergency food relief, together with the logistic support necessary to distribute it, was absolutely minimal for the beneficiaries, who were assumed to number 1.4 million at the time.

44. The pledging levels of food and logistics inputs as well as the stocks of food for relief distribution have been insufficient to provide the minimum required coverage. As a result, the distribution of various commodities in many areas was well below the intended ration level specified in the appeal. In Zambézia Province, with one of the more precarious emergency situations and 30 per cent of the total displaced beneficiaries, available stocks of maize and oil, over the past six months, have consistently been only around 50 per cent of those needed to cover requirements.

45. During 1989, 34 nutritional surveys were conducted by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and non-governmental organizations mainly among displaced populations in accommodation centres and in some urban areas. Of these, 13 revealed critical levels of malnutrition reflecting situations of acute famine and 17 showed malnutrition levels at the alarm stage. Only four surveys, of which two were in Nampula City, gave tolerable rates of malnutrition; however, the growth faltering rate of 16.2 per cent for Nampula City in the period of January-April 1990 shows that the situation has deteriorated.

46. Data collected between January and April by the national health network in 92 districts show high percentages of child growth faltering in 32 districts. Of these, 12 show unacceptable rates of 30 to 61.2 per cent. The more affected provinces are Zambézia, Niassa, Maputo, Inhambane, Nampula and Sofala. The long-term effect of this prolonged malnutrition, especially among children, can be irreversible.

47. A very fine line separates acute malnutrition from starvation. It is feared that people who have been moved out of those areas previously controlled by RENAMO and concentrated in zones where there is insufficient agricultural land will be particularly vulnerable to famine in the coming months.

D. Reserve stocks

48. It is critical to proceed with efforts to build up stocks of maize that would provide the possibility to respond rapidly and adequately to a changing situation. A central part of the strategy for emergency relief is the establishment of food reserves through prepositioning of food aid commitments totalling some 60,000 tons at Maputo, Beira, Quelimane and Nacala, the major port cities. This is needed in order to prevent the ruptures in DPCCN relief distributions that have occurred when stocks have fallen to low levels or were exhausted.

49. One of several possible ways of establishing reserve buffer stocks could be to increase maize purchases from Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Grain Marketing Board has recently offered to sell maize at competitive prices either f.o.b. or ex stock at Beira. The urgency of establishing this reserve stock was raised by the United Nations Special Co-ordinator with donors at Maputo in July 1990.

E. Health

50. The entire health network continues to be seriously affected by the destabilization war. Many health units, principally in the rural areas, were forced to close in 1989, as they continued to be a focus of attack. From 1982 to 1988, destruction compared to rehabilitation of such facilities resulted in an overall decrease of 323 units, reducing the access to health units to the 1980 level. Health care availability has been further reduced by the fact that even operational health units face a chronic lack of essential drugs and vaccines.

51. Efforts are being made to cope with the population movements and to provide adequate health care in accommodation centres. However, financial limitations, structural problems, difficult communications and instability of target populations all combine to hinder planning and implementation of primary health care.

F. Water supply and sanitation

52. The provision of clean water to the areas of high concentration of displaced and affected people continues to be a major health issue. Because of a general lack of basic sanitation and clean drinking-water, water-borne diseases (diarrhoea, bilharzia, parasites) are rife. Existing systems of water storage, pumps and wells have broken down for lack of spare parts and maintenance or have been damaged or destroyed by war. Needs for the urgent provision of potable water exist in all urban areas and accommodation centres.

G. Relief and survival items

53. The lack of clothing is an acute problem suffered by many displaced people, most of whom have to use coverings made of tree bark and maize sacks. This absolute destitution further affects the health and dignity of people who are often under extreme psychological stress, having been brutally separated from their families and having had to abandon their homes, land and familiar surroundings. Around 30 per cent of the targeted displaced people require relief items (clothing, blankets, household utensils and hand tools), which represents the most minimal level in relation to real needs.

H. Education

54. Over 50 per cent of the primary school network has been destroyed or paralysed as a result of the destructive activities of RENAMO. The emergency programme provides educational materials and support for school construction using local materials in order to allow at least a minimum access to the educational process. However, distribution of school materials to remote areas is limited; since transport is scarce, food and medicines, understandably, are given priority.

I. Agricultural production

55. Marketed agricultural production during 1990 is expected to maintain the level of 1989, that is, 120,000 tons. Although this quantity represents a substantial increase over 1981 to 1987 levels, only 10 to 15 per cent of the country's commercial cereal needs will be covered by local production. The national cereal deficit is 787,000 tons for 1990/91.

56. The market sector cereal requirements for the crop year 1990/91 have been calculated at 350,000 tons of maize, 59,000 tons of rice and 178,000 tons of wheat. Last year only 36 per cent of the market maize requirements were pledged.

57. Local food production surpluses may be purchased by donors or exchanged to provide DPCCN with maize and/or pulses in the districts. These local purchases may now be made with counterpart funds generated by donors' market food aid.

58. An important contribution to the increase in crop production during 1990/91 has been made by the programme for distribution of seeds and agricultural hand tools to displaced and severely affected people. The disruption in supplies between January and June 1990 and the shortage resulting from low pledges and delayed deliveries will cause serious deterioration in the nutritional levels. To hedge against this risk, it will be essential to have minimum reserves for the market sector in addition to the 60,000 available to DPCCN.

59. The Government has taken a number of steps to stimulate marketed production levels. In June 1990 the prices of locally produced maize were freed with just a parity-based producer minimum price remaining. Permits for sales of local agricultural produce are no longer necessary. Additionally, the Ministries of

Commerce and Finance and the Bank of Mozambique have established an agricultural marketing fund to facilitate the storage, transport and processing of marketed production.

60. The provinces of Manica, Sofala, Zambézia, Maputo, Tete and Niassa reported that 113,385 hectares of land were distributed to 195,118 displaced families during 1989. During that year, 243,000 displaced persons attained self-sufficiency. In 1990, a further 207,000 displaced persons in Zambézia province have ceased to be dependent on food aid. This is attributed principally to the reintegration of displaced families into the agricultural population and to the positive impact of the seeds and tools programme.

61. However, with the increased concentrations of population along coastal areas (i.e. Pebane, Chinde, Moma) with limited productive land and close to district towns and centres (i.e. Naburi, Namarrói, Ile, Nipepe, Maúa) the possibilities for agricultural self-sufficiency are poor in many areas of high concentration of displaced families.

J. Returnees

62. The Tripartite Repatriation Commission, which was established by the Agreement signed among the Governments of Malawi and Mozambique and UNHCR on 21 December 1988, has held four meetings to discuss the possibilities of improving organized repatriation. At its third meeting, at Blantyre in April 1990, the Commission recommended the opening of six new exit/entry points in addition to those which have been in use since mid-1988. The other two main recommendations regarded the need for an operational/contingency plan to be drawn up for the mass repatriation of Mozambican refugees once peace is achieved, as well as the need to improve co-ordination of voluntary repatriation at both the national and district levels.

63. All repatriation of Mozambicans from neighbouring countries is spontaneous and voluntary, except in the case of expulsions from South Africa. The emergency programme gives assistance to these returnees upon their return in a manner similar to that given to the internally displaced.

IV. SECTORAL ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSE TO THE 1990/91 APPEAL (AS AT 31 JULY 1990)

A. Food aid

64. Relief food aid pledges for the displaced during 1990 represent only 71 per cent of maize requirements, 47 per cent of pulse requirements and 77 per cent of oil requirements. Additional pledges of 50,000 tons of maize and 10,000 tons of pulses are required to meet the initial estimates. However, with the increase of 300,000 persons who urgently require relief assistance, food aid needs have risen correspondingly by 20 per cent (that is 40,000 MT of maize, 4,600 MT of pulses and 1,200 MT of oil), which must be accompanied by corresponding logistics support to guarantee internal delivery.

65. The Prime Minister expressed to the United Nations inter-agency mission that visited the country in February 1990 the Government's wish for support from the international community to improve accountability, reporting and relief deliveries and distributions at provincial levels.

66. The situation of the market sector appears considerably worse. Current pledge levels for market maize cover 46 per cent of requirements, 91 per cent for rice, 59 per cent for wheat, 27 per cent for oil, 8 per cent for pulses and 23 per cent for sugar. The situation with market maize, which is the primary cereal source for lower income urban dwellers, is particularly worrying. In several parts of Maputo City, malnutrition rates have risen over the past 12 months to what is defined by the Ministry of Health as alarming levels. The number of children admitted to the Maputo Central Hospital suffering from acute malnutrition has tripled since 1988. The intended reactivation of the market network in rural areas has also been severely restricted, owing in part to shortfalls in stock levels.

67. Some donors have expressed grave concern about the high losses of food aid that have occurred, particularly as regards maize railed from Zimbabwe and passing through the ports of Maputo and Beira.

68. Commissions of inquiry into thefts and misuse of food aid and relief commodities were established in 1989. Investigations have been undertaken in connection with 246 reported cases of theft and diversion of aid commodities, and 189 of these have been sent for trial. The Council of Ministers has decided on a number of measures to tighten control and protection of relief commodities at both central and provincial levels.

69. Determined efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of reporting will be fundamental prerequisites to achieving renewed donor confidence and increased support. To this end, international staff appointed by the World Food Programme (WFP) have been outposted to Beira, Nampula, Quelimane and Tete as field representatives of the United Nations Special Co-ordinator and the National Executive Commission for the Emergency in six of the most seriously affected provinces. Their function is to facilitate and monitor aid deliveries, logistics and distribution, and to improve information flows. They will also help to strengthen the provincial emergency commissions, assist in donor and non-governmental organization co-ordination and establish programmes to train Mozambican counterparts in the provincial emergency commissions and DPCCN.

70. Some donors have proposed that additional direct distribution be carried out by international non-governmental organizations. In responding to demands that more government initiatives should be undertaken to direct united aid funds and increase accountability in distribution of relief supplies, the Government initiated a far more integrated system of co-operation between DPCCN, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to monitor closely the flow of emergency commodities to the intended beneficiaries.

B. Logistics

71. Logistics remains a seriously underfunded sector, with an overall coverage of only 17.6 per cent of the $US 34 million requirements. Contributions towards the $US 9.6 million capital expenditures component (trucks, tractors, small boats, etc.) have reached only $US 2.8 million, with the shortfall primarily in the essential truck and tractor requirements. Some $US 24 million are needed to cover the costs of fuel, spare parts, coastal shipping and airlifts. Only 13 per cent of this has been pledged.

72. The shortfall in logistical support will continue to hamper relief efforts seriously over the coming months.

C. Agriculture

73. The seeds and tools programme is the major agricultural project in the 1990/91 appeal. Over half the $US 8 million requested has been pledged. Support for this programme also comes through rehabilitation and development funds.

D. Health

74. The health sector is seriously underfunded, with only 37 per cent of the priority needs being met. Only 20 per cent of the $US 5.2 million necessary for the supplemental feeding programmes for malnourished children is under discussion. These programmes need dried milk, sugar and oil. Government/United Nations inter-agency missions are routinely informed that health officials have no materials to initiate badly needed supplementary feeding programmes for severely malnourished children.

E. Drinking-water

75. Water projects are receiving support through multisectoral programmes. Many programmes funded in previous years continue to be implemented since they were of a multi-year nature.

F. Education

76. Support has been obtained for most of the educational materials requested for displaced primary schoolchildren. An additional $US 400,000 is needed to assist in the reconstruction of local schools.

G. Relief and survival items

77. Very little support has been registered. The emergency stockpile of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)/National Executive Commission for the Emergency has received some pledges, but cannot respond to all pressing needs.

H. Returnees

78. There has been lack of support for the UNHCR-sponsored programme, which aids the transition from refugee centres outside Mozambique to the districts of origin. This has created additional hardships for those who have returned voluntarily.

I. Institutional support

79. Of the $US 3.3 million requested, 40 per cent has been pledged.

V. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS

80. In response to the urgent request from the President of Mozambique in 1987, an international appeal was launched and the Secretary-General appointed the Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations system's operational activities for development in Mozambique as the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations.

81. The Special Co-ordinator established four basic operating principles: (a) the Government must be supported in order to avoid a process of famine; (b) the emergency programme's objectives must be integrated with those for economic rehabilitation and development; (c) the central role of the Government in the execution and co-ordination of the emergency programme within the country must be assured; and (d) the Special Co-ordinator must play a key role in co-ordination within the donor community and facilitate permanent dialogue among Government, donors and the United Nations so as to guarantee effective implementation of the emergency programme.

82. The government agency responsible for the day-to-day supervision and co-ordination of the emergency programme, the National Executive Commission for the Emergency, set up an Emergency Operations Committee chaired by the Executive Commission Co-ordinator (who is at present the Vice-Minister for Co-operation).

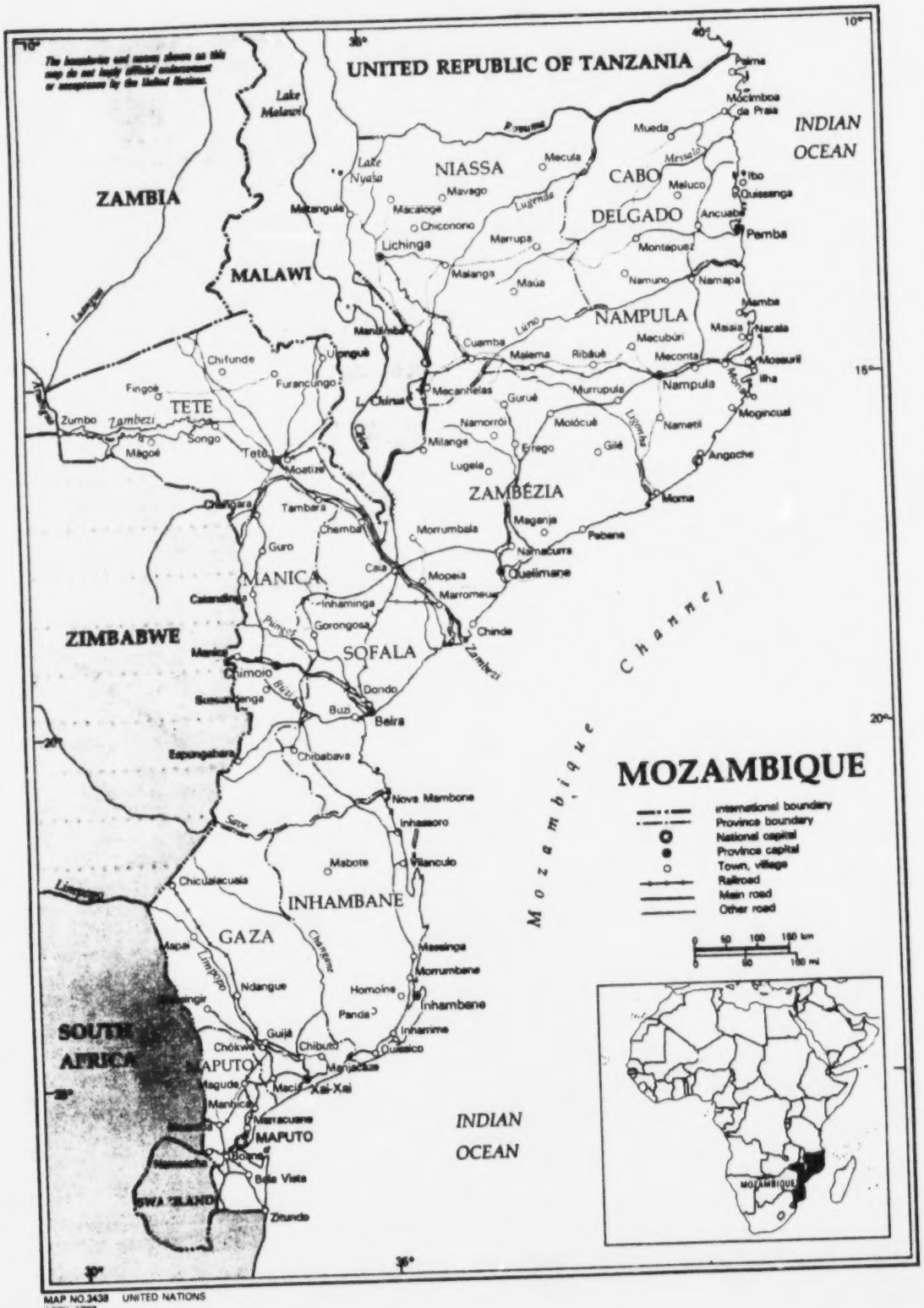
83. The United Nations Special Co-ordinator and the Executive Commission Co-ordinator meet at least twice a week to harmonize their joint activities. The United Nations Special Co-ordinator, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNDRO, worked closely with the United Nations inter-agency missions in the preparation of the last three emergency appeals. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation is an integral part of the Special Co-ordinator's work

and will continue to play an important role in the transition to peace and rehabilitation. Regular joint missions of government representatives and United Nations inter-agency field staff in Mozambique have been the basis for reassessments of emergency needs. The Special Co-ordinator, assisted by UNDRO, has also established a system to maintain up-to-date information on contributions and pledges by the various donors.

Notes

1/ The Emergency Situation in Mozambique/Priority requirements for the period 1990-1991 (ST/SPQ/1).

ANNEX



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LAW OF THE SEA

Marine scientific research

Report of the Secretary-General

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List of acronyms and special terms

CD-ROM	Compact disk - read only memory
ERS-1	European Space Agency Remote Sensing Satellite No. 1
GEOSAT	Geopotential satellite launched by the United States Navy
GLORIA	Geological Long-Range Inclined Asdic: sea floor imaging device towed by vessel capable of covering great range
JGOFS	Joint Global Ocean Flux Study
OTEC	Ocean thermal energy conversion
POSEIDON	French altimetric satellite mission
SAR	Synthetic aperture radar
SEABEAM	High frequency seismic system for detailed mapping of sea floor
SEASAT	First satellite, launched by the U.S. National Aeronautic and Space Agency (NASA), dedicated to the studying of the ocean surface
TOGA	Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere programme
TOPEX	Ocean Topography Experiment Satellite, launched by NASA, with a sophisticated altimeter for measuring the surface topography of the ocean
WOCE	World Ocean Circulation Experiment

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the request in paragraph 19 of its resolution 44/26 of 20 November 1989, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare for it at its forty-fifth session a study on marine scientific research in the light of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. 1/ In that resolution the Assembly had taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection and preservation of the marine environment (A/44/650 and Corr.1), submitted in pursuance of resolution 43/18 of 1 November 1988 and had expressed its conviction of the urgent need to increase the scientific knowledge of the marine environment.

2. The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea substantially extended national jurisdiction offshore and increased the rights and obligations of coastal States in the marine environment and in the exploitation of its resources. The Convention also places a legal obligation on States to apply sound principles of resource management within the exclusive economic zone, and it establishes the régime for the conduct of marine scientific research in that zone and on the continental shelf. The right to exploit the resources of the exclusive economic zone implies a responsibility for proper management concomitant with the duty not to inflict damage on the interests of other States. However, it is evident that proper management requires a knowledge base and a national scientific and political infrastructure to identify and provide viable solutions to any existing or potential problems.

3. The recognition that the ocean is a resource capable of making a growing and substantial contribution to sustainable economic development and also the recognition of the need to understand its role in the total global system have placed new and increased demands on marine science. At the same time, increased interest in coastal and shelf processes has been parallelled by a growing need to understand the holistic behaviour of the total global ocean system, particularly the way in which it acts as a control on climate variability through circulation and heat exchange.

4. As the Secretary-General indicated in his report to the Assembly at its forty-third session, "ensuring sustainable development in the future utilization of marine resources and environment will require special attention" (ibid., para. 72). The report emphasizes that "far from being a mature science, oceanography is still in the process of discovery and the chief source of new understanding comes from new observations, not from theory. Global prediction models must be verified in any event against observations of the state of the ocean, such as sea level, temperature and salinity, and must be compared with measured fluxes of heat, water, particles and gases between the atmosphere, the ocean and the ocean floor. The ocean sciences are thus entering an intensive data-gathering phase that will last through to the late 1990s and perhaps beyond" (ibid., para. 73).

5. The increasing world population places an ever growing pressure on land-based resources. The demand for marine products and ocean services will increase in parallel and strengthen the need for marine research. There is now widespread concern that man's activities may be adversely affecting the earth's environment and the sustainability of its resource base. The ocean plays a dominant role in maintaining the life-supporting system on earth through its interaction with the atmosphere, although the details of that role have yet to be fully understood. Concern over the environment and its changes is likely to shape the future of marine programmes in research and services at all levels, that is, local, regional and global.

6. It will come as no surprise that the major issues identified in this report as requiring concerted action by States and international co-ordination by organizations concerned are predominantly environmental issues, including the conservation of the living resources of the oceans. They include the following:

(a) Creation of national and regional marine scientific research capabilities to adequately provide sound scientific bases for development and management of marine resources, living and non-living;

(b) Research and monitoring of marine pollution;

(c) Global climate research programmes and associated large-scale oceanographic experiments to observe and understand air-sea interaction, the impact of the ocean on climate, and vice-versa;

(d) Coastal dynamics and sea-level rise;

(e) Development of global ocean observing systems to support marine scientific research and ocean uses.

7. Marine science is like any other science in that it relies on observation and tested hypotheses. However, marine scientists face a variety of time and space scales. The question of scales is important because in order to understand the global system, the determination must be made of those scales upon which the physical, chemical and biological processes interact with the global system. There is a need to study processes at intermediate and smaller scales in the individual disciplines of physics, chemistry and biology just as there is a growing need to study the large-scale questions. While the full value of a research project may not be immediately apparent, it is inherent in the nature of scientific research that an offshoot may have greater significance than the intended goals of the project. Large-scale projects are of special importance to the international community in that they call for collaboration among institutions and States. However, they are costly and logistically difficult to carry out but they benefit from and are dependent on international co-operation and planning.

8. For the successful implementation of such small or large-scale projects, it is important to ensure that international co-operation and co-ordination is pursued at the bilateral, regional and global levels as appropriate. Furthermore there also must be a legal framework within which this co-operation and co-ordination can develop.

II. THE NEW LEGAL REGIME FOR MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

9. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea lays down a comprehensive global régime under which States are required to conduct marine scientific research and co-operate in such research. The Convention devotes an entire part (part XIII, consisting of 28 articles) to the question of marine scientific research. Several other parts contain special provisions concerning marine scientific research as it relates to different jurisdictional zones or specific subject matters. Part XII, concerning the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and part XIV, dealing with the development and transfer of marine technology, are the most important in this respect. Indeed, part XIII is so closely linked to those two parts that the three parts should be read together for all practical purposes. Of the 320 articles of the Convention, about 100 deal with the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the resources of the sea, the training of personnel in those fields, and the application of science in the protection and preservation of the marine environment. These provisions form the global legal régime for marine scientific research in a wider sense, and provide the basis for relevant bilateral, regional or other international agreements for the promotion of scientific investigation of the ocean and its resources.

10. The following sections demonstrate that the international community is now facing a growing challenge of better husbanding the oceans and their resources and that this requires the universal strengthening of marine scientific research in all its fields. Since problems and phenomena of ocean space are mostly interrelated and respect no national boundaries, all scientific research issues identified need to be tackled through the joint efforts of States, often together with relevant international organizations. What is most needed now, therefore, is the closer co-operation and co-ordination among States and international organizations in further promoting and facilitating the conduct of such research, disseminating the knowledge, information and data obtained, and developing human resources urgently needed in many countries.

A. General principles

11. The Convention confirms the right of all States and competent international organizations to conduct marine scientific research (art. 238) and lays down a fundamental principle that such research shall be conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes (art. 240). Another general principle recurring throughout the Convention is the duty of States to co-operate in marine scientific research; indeed the régime for marine scientific research is designed to promote international co-operation. 2/

B. General duty to co-operate

12. The Convention clearly enunciates the fundamental duty of all States and competent international organizations to promote and facilitate the development and conduct of marine scientific research in accordance with its provisions (art. 239). Then follows the general duty of States and competent international

organizations to promote international co-operation in marine scientific research for peaceful purposes (art. 242, para. 1). They are furthermore obliged to co-operate to create favourable conditions for the conduct of such research and to integrate the efforts of scientists in the study of the marine environment (art. 243).

13. The call for international co-operation is particularly stressed in the case of States bordering enclosed or semi-enclosed seas, which are urged to co-operate with each other in exercising their rights and performing their duties, and are further obliged to endeavour to co-ordinate their scientific research policies and undertake where appropriate joint programmes of scientific research in the area (art. 123).

14. States are under a duty to promote international co-operation in scientific research on the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, by participating in international programmes and encouraging co-operation in such research by personnel of different countries and of the International Sea-Bed Authority (art. 143, para. 3).

15. On the basis of that fundamental duty to co-operate, the Convention provides for more specific obligations of States and international organizations. These focus on the following three subjects: (a) the consent régime; (b) the dissemination of information, data and knowledge; and (c) training, education and transfer of technology.

16. In addition, there is a fundamental duty found in part XIV of the Convention to assist the efforts of developing countries to acquire technology and scientific knowledge. The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, sharing this sentiment, adopted, together with the Convention, a resolution on development of national marine science, technology and ocean service infrastructures. 3/

C. The consent régime

17. Recognizing the value to coastal States of detailed information on the marine environment and its resources, the Convention provides a legal framework for the acquisition of scientific knowledge in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf. Under the Convention, marine scientific research in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf shall be conducted with the consent of the coastal State (art. 246, para. 2). The Convention establishes detailed rules and procedures for such research activities on the basis of this requirement. 4/

18. Under the consent régime coastal States must, in normal circumstances, grant their consent. They may however at their discretion withhold their consent to the conduct of a marine scientific research project in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf if the project is of direct significance for the exploration and exploitation of natural resources, whether living or non-living; involves drilling in the continental shelf, the use of explosives or the introduction of harmful substances into the marine environment; involves the

construction, operation or use of artificial islands, installations and structures referred to in the Convention; or contains inaccurate information or if the researching State or international organization has outstanding obligations to the coastal State from a prior research project (art. 246, para. 5).

19. That qualified consent requires a coastal State to have an adequate understanding of the scientific nature of each research project. The Convention stipulates that the coastal State shall establish rules and procedures ensuring that consent is not delayed or unreasonably denied, which further underlines the need for a coastal State to reach the level of scientific knowledge necessary for a sound and objective assessment of the characteristics of the research project.

20. The Convention also provides that researching States or competent international organizations may proceed with a marine scientific research project six months after the date the required information relating to the project was provided to the coastal State, unless within four months of the receipt of the communication containing such information the coastal State has informed the State or organization wishing to conduct the research that it was withholding its consent or that the information given does not conform to evident facts or that supplementary information is required (art. 252).

21. There is a special provision (art. 247) in the consent régime for projects undertaken by or under the auspices of international organizations. In cases where an international organization to which a coastal State belongs or with which it has an agreement plans to carry out a research project either directly or under its auspices, the coastal State is deemed to have authorized the project if it approved the undertaking of the project when the decision was made by the organization or is willing to participate in it and has not expressed an objection within four months of notification by the organization. That procedure would be of great use, particularly, in facilitating research projects on a global scale.

D. Dissemination of information, data and knowledge

22. The publication and dissemination of information on research programmes and their objectives as well as knowledge resulting from marine scientific research are another form of the obligation to co-operate. For that purpose, States are obliged to promote actively the flow of scientific data and information and the transfer of such knowledge, especially to developing States (art. 244).

23. This is particularly true in the implementation of the provisions dealing with proper conservation and management of living resources of the oceans in order to avoid over-exploitation and to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels which can produce maximum sustainable yield. The Convention provides for the promotion of international co-operation in acquiring scientific data and exchange of information on the conservation of such living resources (art. 61).

24. In the exclusive economic zone and on the high seas, States are required to contribute and exchange, on a regular basis, available scientific information regarding catch and fishing effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation of fish stocks. This should be done through competent international organizations, with the participation of all States concerned (arts. 61 and 119).

25. The Convention imposes additional duties on States concerning the need to co-operate or co-ordinate their measures for the conservation, development and management of certain specified fish stocks or species in the exclusive economic zone or on the high seas. The general obligation for the exchange of relevant information and data in connection with those stocks and species contained in article 61 applies to such stocks and species. The specific stocks mentioned are those straddling two or more exclusive economic zones or the exclusive economic zone and the high seas (art. 63) and anadromous stocks (art. 66). Other species mentioned are the highly migratory species listed in annex I of the Convention and catadromous species (art. 67). In addition, special provisions are made with regard to co-operation in the conservation of marine mammals (arts. 65 and 120).

26. A similar obligation is found with respect to marine pollution. States are obliged to co-operate in order to promote scientific research and encourage the exchange of information and data on marine pollution (art. 200). States are required to endeavour to study, by recognized scientific methods, the risks and effects of marine pollution and to publish the results obtained or otherwise make them available to all States (arts. 204 and 205). A coastal State is also required to provide other States with a reasonable opportunity to obtain from it, or with its co-operation, information necessary to prevent and control damage as well as to the health and safety of persons and to the marine environment (art. 242, para. 2).

E. Training, education and transfer of technology

27. The general emphasis that the Convention places on the needs of developing States is particularly articulated in the development of marine science and technology. States are obliged to co-operate in order actively to promote the development and transfer of marine science and marine technology on fair and reasonable terms and conditions. The need to promote the development of scientific and technological capacity of States is highlighted in the fields of resource conservation and development, ocean research and the protection and preservation of the marine environment (art. 266).

28. In addition to existing arrangements, the Convention calls for expanded and new programmes for facilitating marine scientific research, the transfer of marine technology and appropriate international funding for ocean research and development (art. 270). States are also required to promote the establishment, particularly in developing coastal States, of national and regional marine scientific and technological research centres and the strengthening of existing centres (arts. 275 and 276).

29. More specifically, upon request by a coastal State, States and international organizations, undertaking research in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf, must provide it with an assessment of the data, samples and research results or provide assistance in their assessment or interpretation (art. 249, para. 1 (d)).

30. In the area of protection and preservation of the marine environment, States are obliged to promote programmes of scientific, educational and technical assistance to developing States, including the training of scientific personnel and developing facilities for research, monitoring and educational programmes (art. 202).

31. Finally, States parties to the Convention are required to promote international co-operation in marine scientific research in the Area by ensuring that programmes are developed for the benefit of developing States with a view, inter alia, to strengthening their research capabilities (art. 143).

III. REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN MARINE SCIENCES

32. Developments in marine scientific research are often categorized in terms of four separate scientific disciplines: physics, chemistry, biology and geology. However, there are strong and growing links among those various studies. Interdisciplinary research into problems as diverse as climate change, pollution and resource sustainability are an indication of the growing maturity of marine studies as an integrated science.

A. Marine physics

33. Studies of the dynamics of the upper layer of the ocean, the behaviour of mesoscale eddies (the ocean equivalent of atmospheric cyclonic systems), equatorial dynamics and western boundary currents have laid the foundations for planning the major global programmes that are now under way. The brief SEASAT satellite altimetry mission in 1978 proved the feasibility of producing synoptic maps of ocean waves and of changes in ocean circulation. As a result, plans for future altimeters were developed; GEOSAT is already in orbit and plans for the ERS-1 satellite and the TOPEX/POSEIDON satellite are well advanced. Other satellites have mapped distributions of sea-ice, sea-surface temperature and other properties such as primary biological productivity.

34. During the next decade, vast quantities of observational data will be produced from ships and satellites, most notably as part of the Tropical Ocean/Global Atmosphere (TOGA) programme 1985-1995 and the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), which started in 1990. One of the basic goals of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment is to find methods of determining long-term changes in ocean circulation. The possibility of interaction between widely separated geographical regions of the ocean, connected through meteorological events, has been confirmed and supported by atmospheric wave propagation theories and by numerical experiments. Within the Tropical Ocean/Global Atmosphere programme, studies of the El Niño phenomenon have linked large-scale tropical ocean-atmosphere interactions. Interest is focusing on responses of the ocean to green-house warming and the influence of the oceans on resulting climate changes. Already it is apparent that vertical mixing processes can produce significant regional variations. Some form of basic climate prediction, through the coupling of observations from an ocean observing system with an eddy-resolving numerical model, is expected by the year 2000.

35. This breakthrough will require the development of the observational system, of computers two orders of magnitude more powerful than at present, and of solutions to the fundamental problem in ocean modelling: how to couple the fluids of ocean and atmosphere while conserving numerically those parameters such as heat, moisture and momentum that are exchanged between them. Global studies and predictions are fundamental to regional and local predictions.

36. Processes at the break of the continental shelf are attracting renewed attention. There are indications that internal mixing vertically within the ocean is considerably enhanced there, in part because of the generation and breaking of internal waves. The interaction of ocean eddies with shelf waters and the role of cross-break jets in those exchanges are also likely to be elucidated by the application of numerical models and direct observation.

37. For seas of the continental shelf, the forecasting of storm surges is now a fundamental component of several flood-warning systems. Warnings of such events will be even more important if the weather were to become increasingly stormy and coasts more vulnerable. New studies seek to improve the flood forecasts by incorporating waves and depth-dependent currents into the computations. Also for shelf seas, particularly those influenced by strong tidal currents, a major effort is being undertaken to build on a recent breakthrough in the understanding of the physics of the formation of fronts, sharp boundaries between different water masses, which are known to be biologically significant.

38. Near-shore, the modelling of three-dimensional dynamics, particularly in the region of river discharges and through the spring/neap tidal energy cycles, is a necessary development before the more difficult problem of estimating chemical and biological fluxes within the coastal zone can be tackled with any confidence. For operational predictions and the monitoring of nearshore dynamics and pollution (for example, toxic algal blooms, the so-called red tides), coupled models, which include sediment and biological dynamics, tidal and meteorological forcing and river discharges, are conceivable. However, the basic processes need further study before such reliable operational systems can be developed.

B. Marine chemistry

39. Developments in marine chemistry often follow progress in general chemical analytical techniques and in the wider development of *in situ* chemical sensors. This is especially true for organic chemistry where the overwhelming number of compounds present in very small amounts in sea-water requires rapid analysis. Marine pollution studies have been a major stimulus for marine chemistry research over the past years with those new analytical tools allowing the determination of many pollutants in very low concentrations, which were not previously detectable. In addition, by introducing artificial tracers in minute concentrations, marine scientists can now study the circulation and mixing of the sea.

40. Marine chemists are increasingly aware of the importance of hydrothermal circulation in the ocean crust, particularly in the vicinity of mid-ocean ridges, for the overall chemical composition of the oceans. Those are very recent

discoveries and much remains to be done to quantify the rates of supply of minerals from these sources, and their fate. As a recent example of their effect on ocean chemistry, significant depletions in concentrations of phosphorous have been found in the waters above Pacific sea-floor sites where hydrothermal fluids are being emitted. Research has shown that this is because, as the metal-enriched fluids are discharged, the most abundant metals, iron and manganese, quickly precipitate out as metal-oxide particles, scavenging other chemicals from the sea water. Those particles, including phosphorous, then settle to the sea floor around vent areas, forming metal-rich sediments.

41. Studies of chemical exchanges across the air-sea interface and of the chemistry of the surface microlayer of the sea are also at an early stage. Natural sea surface films are for the most part complex polymeric components; they differ significantly from place to place in thickness, pressures and spreading characteristics. This variability is significant because it affects the exchange of gases between ocean and atmosphere.

42. The influence of rivers and estuaries on the geochemical budgets of many elements, including carbon, is still a major unknown factor in the cycling of materials through the ocean. The problem is to determine the new fluxes of particulate and dissolved material (organic and inorganic) into the ocean and to learn how they are modified in passage through estuaries and coastal waters. Studies of a few major rivers can serve as a focus for the many scientists who will participate in such investigations.

C. Marine biology

43. In common with marine chemists, biologists have been forced to rethink some basic ideas following the discovery of sea-bed hydrothermal vents, found particularly in the vicinity of sea-floor spreading sites. Rich but highly specialized faunas of very large metazoans develop in the close neighbourhood of vents. Their discovery and that of high concentrations of bacteria were a major surprise. Lower temperature hydrothermal vents, found away from active ridges, are also characterized by extensive communities of organisms including clams, mussels, crabs and forests of giant tube worms. The organisms that live around the vents have highly specialized physiological systems suited to their unique chemical environment.

44. Specialized sulphur-reducing bacteria play a major role in the vent food web. The ecosystems use chemosynthesis rather than photosynthesis for their energy source. Similar chemosynthesis communities have now been discovered around sea-floor regions where petroleum and other similar substances seep out and also around the decaying carcasses of whales. It is possible that whale carcasses distributed on the sea floor might serve as "stepping stones" for the dispersal of deep sea animals that depend on chemosynthesis.

45. The understanding of the processes of planktonic production at the sea surface is advancing through the use of standard carbon-14 uptake techniques and through colour sensitive satellite photography. Food-web dynamics are also studied through

application of the carbon-14 uptake techniques; it now appears that this method underestimates the total levels of production. One important practical aspect of studies of food-web dynamics is the enhancement of pollutants as they move up the food chain to levels where they may be eaten by man. Other aspects of marine biology being investigated include the role of different size fractions among planktonic primary producers, the role of bacteria in the plankton, and the contribution of non-planktonic primary producers to the organic carbon flux through the water column and through coastal and estuarine regions.

46. Studies on co-operative recruitment mechanisms continue to develop. Regional studies, for example, in the south-west Atlantic, are being extended to other regions and to a variety of different species. The use of large-scale experimental facilities for biological studies of this kind is becoming more widespread, and can act as a focus that stimulates interaction between scientists in different countries.

47. One of the most exciting marine biological discoveries in recent years has been the identification of unexpected seasonal variations in the biological floc concentrations at abyssal depths. These have been observed with a lag of only tens of days on the overlying sea-surface processes; the consequences of this close coupling between surface and deep-sea biology are only beginning to be understood, but it is apparent that the deep sea is neither as biologically inactive nor as isolated as was previously thought.

48. Other fundamental studies in marine biology have been given new directions with the application of genetic theories and techniques developed in the wider scientific field. Conversely, marine biological studies have themselves contributed to a fuller understanding of more general biological phenomena. For example, studies in marine biology have led to new medicines and to a better understanding of human nerves and muscles. They have even led to new designs in computer technology.

D. Geology and geophysics

49. Many aspects of marine geology and geophysics are fundamental to an understanding of the geology of the earth as a whole. In the earth sciences, plate tectonics now is universally accepted as the major conceptual framework for research, with emphasis on determining the rates and mechanisms of spreading from different ocean centres. Other studies focus on the details of small-plate dynamics and of triple-junction movements. Deep submersibles, both manned and unmanned, have played an important role in detailed surveys of the sea floor. More general surveys have been heavily based on acoustic systems such as GLORIA, which is now completing a 5-year survey of the United States exclusive economic zone, and SEABEAM. Nevertheless, despite the success of the concept of plate tectonics as applied over the past 20 years, several outstanding questions remain.

50. Examination of the detailed crustal morphology near mid-ocean ridges, and learning how they evolved are fundamental to understanding the process of emplacement. The three-dimensional structure of the ocean crust near spreading ridges needs elucidation. Another major question relates to the nature and existence of layering within the general oceanic crust.

51. Research is also focused on inhomogeneities deeper in the mantle and the connection that they might have with the processes that drive the motions of the terrestrial plates. Relationships between sea-bed geology and the geology of regions of much thicker continental crust are still unclear. Indeed, one of the triumphs of plate tectonic theories has been to provide a conceptual framework, which embraces both continental and marine tectonics, in the absence of a detailed knowledge of these relationships.

52. The margins between the deep ocean and the shallower regions may be divided into active and passive categories. Active margins, which are important sites of present-day tectonic and volcanic activity, have been intensively studied in the past 20 years, but despite general agreement on the processes that operate there, several questions remain unanswered. For example, is there, as the Deep Sea Drilling Project results have indicated, a zone of crustal erosion between the deep-sea trench and the island arc? And what is the role of pore waters in the subduction process? Practical interest in these studies includes learning how the effects of natural hazards in the active margins may be reduced, for example, by developing methods of predicting earthquakes.

53. Exploration of off-shore hydrocarbon deposits and their exploitation are now routine; as known fields become exhausted the major concern has shifted to the identification of new production areas, particularly those in deeper water. At these active margins there are possibilities of locating hydrocarbons, either in the zone between the trench and the volcanic arc, which has many of the characteristics of passive margins, or in the back arc basins, which are often thick and covered with material of terrestrial origin. Recently, petroleum-like hydrocarbons have also been detected in hydrothermal vent areas. The hydrothermal oils are similar in structure to conventionally exploited crude oils, but have an age of only 5,000 years.

54. There are also good prospects of finding hydrocarbons at passive margins, yet in many ways those margins are the least understood areas of the ocean crust. A principal reason for this gap in knowledge is that many passive margins were formed by breakup a long geological time ago. The initial structures and much of their subsequent history often lie buried under a thick layer of sediments. Commercial and scientific drillings in those regions, as well as seismic reflection profiling, are now adding new information that will help to clarify the structure of passive margins. Understanding the history of sedimentation and subsidence through the thermal history of the margins is an essential requirement for determining whether any hydrocarbons present might have matured to form oil and gas.

IV. RESEARCH TOOLS

A. Technology

55. Technology has had an enormous impact on marine scientific research, particularly on large-scale research and environmental monitoring projects. Progress in technology is generally easier to anticipate than progress in scientific understanding; the development of major equipment such as the GLORIA

acoustic system or the TOPEX/POSEIDON satellite and the pre-planning may take one or two decades. Nevertheless, there are sometimes major surprises in the performance of newly developed equipment.

56. The fundamental importance of satellite remote-sensing for ocean monitoring is now well established. Synoptic measurements of waves, surface temperature, winds and ocean circulation from satellites will form the basis for future climate predictions. In biology, similar synoptic measurements of ocean colour may quantify primary production. Further applications of remote-sensing will include the investigation of the relationship between local, regional and wider-scale toxic red-tide events.

57. Nevertheless, the satellite view of the oceans is literally superficial; the transmitted radiation is indicative of conditions only a few microns below the surface. However, measurements with synthetic aperture radar (SAR) have unexpectedly shown large-scale patterns of surface roughness that are thought to be related to second-order dynamics of internal motions. Results are encouraging, but measurements of internal ocean properties will not rely on SAR alone. Drifting buoys fitted with thermistor chains, acoustic devices and meteorological instruments will also be an important component of future ocean monitoring systems. These buoys can also provide sea-truth for satellite measurements. Legal problems must be overcome and precautions taken to avoid interference with shipping and to prevent their intrusion into coastal waters where they may be unwelcome.

58. However, drifting buoys are also limited to near-surface measurements. Other solutions must be found for the more general collection of ocean data at depth. New power sources, hydrodynamic design principles and material technology make it possible to design unmanned data-gathering submersibles, capable of trans-ocean passage over a period of weeks. When operational, these submersibles will make vertical sections on passage through the oceans, returning to the surface at intervals for satellite transmission of data.

59. Acoustic topography, with detailed analysis of travel times, promises integrated measurements of velocities and of vorticity across vast distances within the oceans. Further improvements in the analysis of acoustic signals from active sonar systems promise much higher resolution of sea-bed features and more detailed mapping of sediment distributions and types. Deep-towed instruments can achieve detailed but limited sea-bed coverage at present; development of optical fibre control systems will allow a faster and more sensitive response of vehicles at depth under the control of ship-based scientists.

B. Data and information management

60. Synoptic measurements for climate prediction will make great demands on the international data transmission and assimilation procedures established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Fortunately, technology is also developing rapidly enough to allow the design of systems able to cope both with the volume of data and with the elaborate analyses that must follow. The full implications of rapid data

transmission via telephone networks, optical fibre cables and satellites are being evaluated at present for future ocean data bases. Closer co-operation between agencies to make data instantly available from a distributed network will follow. So too will assimilating data into operational computer models.

61. Cheap and easy data storage and data transfer using CD-ROM technology are beginning to revolutionize the way in which individual scientists work, freeing them from adherence to major computing facilities. For example, a scientist in a developing country with CD-ROM data bases and a personal computer will be well equipped to undertake extensive local studies and to place them in a regional and wider context. As an example, the United States National Oceanographic Data Center has prepared a compact disc that contains over 1.3 million temperature/salinity depth profiles taken in the Pacific Ocean between 1900 and 1988. Another CD-ROM prepared by the United States Geological Survey contains full details of the GLORIA acoustic sea-bed mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.

62. Beyond the collection, exchange and analysis of data, another major challenge is only beginning to be tackled: presenting the results in a form that allows further manipulation and application, even by relatively unskilled users. To achieve this goal, computer-related atlases are now being evaluated for presentation of satellite images. Further developments are also underway to produce personal computer-based atlases with zoom, overlay and plot facilities for a wide range of ocean parameters; more elaborate manipulations using Geographic Information System technology are also envisaged. The market for such user-friendly information systems needs to be developed, but one attractive option is to make them widely available at low cost for educational purposes.

63. Even local access to extensive library facilities will become less important, because indexes and abstracts of papers can be made available, for example, on CD-ROM. Five years of oceanographic abstracts are easily contained on a single CD-ROM for local reference. 5/ Complete journals should be available eventually in a similar format, with minimal problems of storage and maintenance. The legal and financial problems of copyright and charges will have to be overcome before the full technical potential can be realized. Nevertheless, the opportunity will be there for all countries, developing and developed, to exploit and accelerate the information cycle.

V. MAJOR RESEARCH ISSUES

64. Many of the issues facing ocean science are inherently interdisciplinary and present major technical and logistical challenges. Experience has shown that truly interdisciplinary collaboration among scientists is unusual and difficult to arrange. Multidisciplinary projects are more common, but the separate disciplines are often poorly co-ordinated and the results inadequately synthesized. In part, this reflects the different approaches taken by different disciplines themselves and in part by the structures of the different institutions involved. The difficulties must be overcome if the scientific and social challenges of the future are to be understood. 6/

65. Beyond the integration of basic scientific disciplines, there is a further need for the scientific community to provide the best possible information and to explain clearly the nature of scientific knowledge. Policy makers also must make efforts to understand and appreciate the nature and limitations of scientific knowledge. International exchanges of scientific information must go beyond exchanges between scientists alone; they must reach and be understood by decision makers.

A. Marine resource management

66. The living resources of the oceans have been exploited over very long periods of time through traditional fisheries operations, but the practice of cultivating and managing marine living resources is just beginning. In many cases, the living resources of the oceans have been depleted as result of over-exploitation or recruitment failure caused by environmental change, natural or man-made. For example, 95 per cent of the world's fish catch is reported by the World Commission on Environment and Development to be threatened by overfishing (see A/42/427, annex, chap. 10, para. 9). Fisheries research, therefore, is continuing to focus on what causes fluctuations in year-class size of marine fish stocks. This will require large-scale studies at sea and more interdisciplinary co-operation, and enhanced collection, exchange and storage and retrieval of data. Large-scale experiments to examine biological and technical multispecies interactions will also be necessary.

67. Although fish farming in the coastal zone can be enhanced by careful coastal management, it is vulnerable to pollution in a way quite different from mobile off-shore fish stocks: fish farms cannot move to another area when local disturbances such as toxic red-tide blooms occur. When linked to other schemes, for example, ocean thermal energy conversion, such as that now in operation in Hawaii, which provides deep, nutrient-rich water, coastal mariculture promises high productivity and effective stock management. Similarly, the application of modern advances in genetics and biotechnology hold promise of enhanced utilization of the ocean's capacity for food production. A major increase in the production of pharmaceutical products by the application of biotechnology to natural resources from the ocean can also be anticipated.

68. There is an increasing interest in exploring the usefulness of the large marine ecosystems to understanding the management of marine living resources in large ocean spaces. This holistic approach to research and management is beginning to gain ground in several regions of the world. There is probably a need to form regional management bodies or to encourage existing ones to develop management practices along those lines rather than to continue the more traditional single species approach to management that is currently employed. This will require major research into the ecosystems involved, which can only be tackled by nations acting in a co-operative manner and then implementing the results in the same way.

69. A few countries are beginning to extract tidal and wave power although the full potential is still untapped; renewable tidal energy and wave energy have many attractions, but schemes to exploit them also have implications for the development

of sensitive coastal margin areas. As in the case of ocean thermal energy conversion, there are clear advantages for small, developing countries and islands in developing renewable ocean-based power sources.

70. An important reason for studying the sea is to enable optimum economic benefits from mining and hydrocarbon extraction. Hydrocarbons are now routinely obtained by drilling in water depths of a few hundred metres, typical of continental shelf seas. However, as discussed previously, there are reasonable scientific expectations of further reserves being found in deeper water, including the passive continental margins. In even deeper water, mineral deposits on the ocean floor, for example, in the form of nodules and as hydrothermal deposits, are likely to prove capable of commercial exploitation. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides a legal framework within which those resources may be made available, but much of the underpinning science and technology remains to be developed.

B. Protection of the marine environment

71. The rational utilization of marine resources is now seriously threatened by pollution. The ocean, particularly in coastal areas, receives considerable inputs from anthropogenic sources through rivers and from the atmosphere, including nutrients and sediments. The ocean is also used directly as a repository for wastes but the practice of marine disposal is coming under increasingly stringent control.

72. The problems of pollution require multidisciplinary solutions. Research efforts are directed to studies of water quality, biological conditions, amenity protection and other marine uses including mariculture. Eutrophication, plankton blooms and red tides are local pollution problems of global concern. Human health is potentially at risk through the consumption of contaminated seafood and swimming in contaminated waters. The trend of contamination spreading from estuaries to coastal zones and thence to shelf seas is evident in many areas, and signals are also being detected in the open ocean that show contamination spreading globally. The potential biological effects due to long-term, low-level contamination are of growing concern. High priority conditions must be given to carrying out these studies, to establishing open-ocean baseline conditions and to assessing the local and regional impacts of anthropogenic pollutants. One goal to be achieved through the development of standardized regional monitoring activities and data management systems is a meaningful comparison of contaminant data.

73. Mixing and circulation as a mechanism for pollution dispersion can be simulated through numerical models driven by winds and tides, but the chemical and biological processes are more difficult to model and predict. Regional studies are already underway to address concerns expressed for the health of the North Sea, the Baltic, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean Seas.

74. Important advances have been made in the field of the measurement and assessment of toxicity. It now appears possible to classify the mode of action of toxicants in such a way as to improve the ability to extrapolate from species to

species, or from acute to chronic, and from single species to higher levels of biological organization. Thus, although the ability to predict the potential harmfulness of chemicals on a multitude of species from a data base consisting of a very few species remains incomplete, considerable progress has been made.

75. In summary, there is a need for co-ordinated international action to evaluate the level of pollutants in the ocean and the biological-ecological consequences. First models must be created that can simulate the processes of transport, mixing and dilution as they affect pollutants and predict the consequences. These models will then provide a reliable guide to nations and intergovernmental agencies developing policies for marine waste disposal.

C. Oceans and climate

76. Potential global warming brought about by the trapping of heat in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases is now a major concern. One of the principal greenhouse gases is carbon-dioxide, produced naturally and by the burning of fossil fuel. Carbon-dioxide levels in the atmosphere are known to be increasing, but not at the rate expected from industrial output; this carbon-dioxide discrepancy is thought to be due to absorption by the oceans. The rate at which the ocean can take up carbon-dioxide depends on the concentration levels and on the rate of exchange of surface ocean water with deep water. Thus, knowledge of three-dimensional ocean circulation is critical to the understanding of long-term carbon-dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere. The role played by marine phytoplankton in the process is also thought to be of major importance and is being actively investigated.

77. The ocean has been described as the fly-wheel of global climate, lessening latitudinal variations and seasonal extremes. Many aspects of sensitivity to climate change are related to the ocean, its circulation and ability to transport heat from the tropics to higher latitudes. Within the oceans, global modelling of circulation and eddy dynamics is a realistic goal by the year 2000, with the data from the World Ocean Circulation Experiment providing an observational input for testing and control of models. Such models will provide an impetus for quantitative biological and chemical flux studies on a global scale, building on initial work now underway in the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS) programme. Biogeochemical processes on ocean scales may be realistically modelled in the early decades of the next century.

78. A primary requirement for improving the simulation and prediction of climate is that systematic global observations of significant climate parameters are needed for the foreseeable future in order to refine the parametric formulation of climate-forming mechanisms, to provide a suitable description of the present state of climate as a basis for initiating predictions and to monitor variability of climate. Some important climate quantities, such as global atmospheric water transport and precipitation, surface winds and sea-state, and ocean surface dynamic topography, are only accessible by means of new observing systems. Another crucial requirement is the augmentation of conventional observations to provide systematic global observations, including remote areas that may not be essential for short-term weather forecasting.

79. Global changes of climate affect all countries. The most severe effects become apparent in particular countries or regions. For example, the collapse of the Peruvian fisheries industry can be partially related to the occurrence of the El Niño phenomena, which links Pacific Ocean dynamics with changes in equatorial wind fields. Scientific understanding of the dynamics of the phenomenon allows some indication of a likely loss of fish stocks up to a year ahead, but much work remains to be done. Another example at a regional level is the occasional failure of monsoon rains on the Indian subcontinent, a major concern locally; the reasons are also related, at present it is not known how, to global climate processes.

D. Coastal dynamics and sea-level rise

80. The coastal regions and adjacent seas are the most heavily used of the ocean areas and the most vulnerable to misuse. The delicate ecological and geological balance in coastal areas, particularly in estuaries, cannot be sustained without understanding the relationships between the physics and the chemistry and between the biology and the sediment dynamics. Here the rewards for proper coastal management are evident: mineral resources without beach erosion, mariculture without pollution, discharge without damage.

81. Erosion along one length of coast is often balanced by accretion elsewhere; one error can be to stabilize an area of coast at great expense when this may lead to serious erosion elsewhere. Changes of land use, for example, the felling of tropical rain forests and the consequent increased rates of land erosion leading to more sediment being discharged into rivers, are also leading to different patterns of coastal erosion and deposition. Development of protection mechanisms based on cultivation of erosion-inhibiting coastal plants could be very cost-effective when compared with alternative developments of barriers or continual beach nourishment.

82. Coastal flooding and flood warning systems are best studied and operated in a broad regional context. For example, the whole of the North Sea behaves as a dynamic system in response to atmospheric forcing. Co-operation and data exchange as the basis for warning systems of imminent storm surge flooding are essential. Even more serious problems of storm surge flooding of low-lying coastal land are encountered in regions of tropical hurricane storms. Flooding in Bangladesh is an extreme, though not isolated example, where there are urgent requirements for reliable warning systems.

83. One of the long-term consequences of global temperature increases is likely to be an increase in global sea levels much in excess of the 0.15m generally observed over the past 100 years. Increases may be due to warming and expansion of present ocean waters and to the melting of glacial ice. One cannot predict direct sea-level responses to global warming on the basis of present knowledge. The best, but still very crude, estimates suggest an increase in global sea levels of perhaps 0.5m over the next 100 years. The impact on coastlines needs to be assessed so that a strategy for management of estuaries and wetlands and other low-lying land can be developed. Responses may be at a national or even a district level, but the warnings and possible avoidance strategies demand global studies and agreement.

84. Sea-level rise is an important element in the total ongoing problem of coastal dynamics and management. Equally important in the context of changing climate could be the altered pattern and severity of storms that generate surges and coastal flooding. Strong international co-ordination and exchange of expertise are an essential prerequisite for all coastal zone studies.

E. Global marine observing services

85. Long-term marine observing and forecasting services are needed to monitor, understand and ultimately predict ocean changes and their consequences for mankind. There is an urgent need for an improved international system to provide data to disseminate information about the marine environment based on the data. However, at present, long-term marine observing and forecasting services exist for only a few selected ocean areas. The development and implementation of a comprehensive ocean observing system on a global scale to monitor changes in the ocean and to determine the effect of the ocean on the atmosphere and global climate are a high priority issue. Specifications for a proposed system are now being considered by the international scientific community. The system will be administered by the World Meteorological Organization and by the Intergovernmnetal Oceanographic Commission.

86. It is clear the global ocean monitoring systems must include observations at the coast and within the exclusive economic zones of coastal States, as well as from deep ocean areas. In a period of global concern about the environment, there must be an objective international source of information from which to develop consensus policy decisions.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3, document A/CONF.62/121, annex I.

2/ Alexander Yankov, "A general review of the new Convention on the Law of the Sea: marine science and its application," Ocean Yearbook, vol. 4 (1983), p. 164.

3/ Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (A/CONF.62/121), annex VI. Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. 17 (1984), p. 149.

4/ The Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has prepared a guide to the implementation of the Convention provisions relating to marine scientific research with the assistance of a group of technical experts. The guide is to be published in early 1991.

Notes (continued)

5/ A CD-ROM - the ASFA Database - has been issued already, containing abstracts on the science, technology and management of marine and freshwater environments taken from over 5,000 sources since 1982. The database is sponsored by the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, FAO, IOC and UNEP.

6/ UNESCO, Ocean science for the year 2000 (1984), p. 17.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

World conference on human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 44th session the General Assembly adopted its resolution 44/156, on 15 December 1989, entitled "World conference on human rights". In that resolution, the Assembly noted the progress made by the United Nations over the past 20 years towards achieving its goal of promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and that there are still areas in which further progress could be made towards that goal, and considered that, in view of the progress made and the new challenges that lie ahead, it would be appropriate to conduct a review of what had been accomplished through the human rights programme and what remains to be done. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with human rights on the desirability of convening a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights, and also requested him to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on that question. The present document is submitted to the Assembly pursuant to that request.

2. The Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/156 and by notes verbales and letters dated 30 April 1990, requested the views of Governments, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies concerned with human rights and non-governmental organizations in consultative status on the desirability of convening a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. As at 31 October 1990, views on that question had been received from the following Governments: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chad, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland (on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community), Mauritius, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and Zaire.

4. Substantive replies regarding the convening of a World Conference on Human Rights were also received from the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank. In addition, views were expressed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Centre Against Apartheid, the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stated that the matter would be taken up in the coming sessions of their respective Committees.

5. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council submitted views: Amnesty International, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Four Directions Council, International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty, International Association of Penal Law, International Council of Jewish Women, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Christian Democrat International, International Federation Terre des Hommes, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education, Planetary Citizens, Prison Fellowship International, Soroptimist International, World Association for World Federation, World Confederation of Labour and the World Movement of Mothers.

6. In their replies, all the Governments supported the convening of a World Conference on Human Rights with the exception of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Similarly, the specialized agencies that submitted their views supported the idea of a world conference, or indicated their willingness to take part should one be organized. The replies from United Nations bodies and organs and non-governmental organizations were also favourable to the holding of such a conference with the exception of the reply of the World Movement of Mothers. Some replies contained detailed ideas concerning the background of such a conference, the approaches to be adopted, the items to be discussed, participation and the results to be expected.

7. The recent favourable changes in international conditions and the new perspectives that were thus opened for the protection and promotion of human rights were underlined in several replies as were the developments and achievements over the past 40 years in the United Nations human rights programme. Replies also underlined the important interrelationship between international peace and security and respect for human rights, as well as the interdependence between the various human rights themselves. Some replies pointed out the gap between international standards and the actual respect for human rights in the world.

8. Many replies stated that a world conference on human rights should focus on improving international co-operation in the field and in strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations system for the promotion and protection of human rights. Several replies suggested specific topics, issues, problems and phenomena for study by a World Conference covering a very wide range of issues. In addition, the need to reconfirm the existing principles and priorities of international co-operation in the field of human rights was stressed.

9. As a framework for a world conference, the following main ideas emerged from the replies: review of progress made in the field of human rights in the world, particularly with reference to the work of the United Nations; evaluation of the effectiveness of methods and techniques for the protection and promotion of human rights, at global and regional levels, in particular by the United Nations; and consideration of future action.

10. There was a wide agreement that the success of a conference would depend in large measure on its preparation. Broad consultations were called for and the importance of the involvement of expert human rights bodies, the specialized agencies and other organizations dealing with human rights, the academic community

and non-governmental organizations in consultative status was underlined. These preparations could lead to the submission of specific recommendations for consideration by a world conference. It was also felt that the success of a world conference would also depend upon participation at the highest level. Finally, it was generally felt that a well-prepared world conference with high-level participation could make an important contribution to the international promotion and protection of human rights.

II. VIEWS SUBMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

The Government of Argentina transmitted its "opinion in favour of convening a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights".

AUSTRALIA

The Government of Australia submitted the following views:

"The Australian Government welcomes the proposal to convene a world conference on human rights. The proposal is a timely one, especially in view of the sweeping progress of democratization world wide which has created new opportunities for the advancement of human rights.

"Australia believes that the focus for such a conference should be on the major elements of the work of the United Nations on the promotion and protection of human rights. It should provide the opportunity for a reaffirmation of the central importance of existing international standards, as well as a discussion on expanding and strengthening the infrastructure which already contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights. Consideration should also be given to changes and developments in the international environment and multilateral system as they affect human rights.

"A forum such as this should review progress since the previous world conference in the field of human rights and take stock of the effectiveness of existing multilateral human rights machinery.

"The conference should serve as an occasion and stimulus for the rapid expansion of the number of ratifications of existing instruments. It should review means of implementing the various instruments and, where necessary, propose enhanced and more effective monitoring and reporting procedures. The role of non-governmental organizations in promoting human rights should be discussed in this context.

"The conference should ensure that the United Nations allocates sufficient resources to all its human rights bodies to enable them to function at an increased level of effectiveness.

"Consideration should also be given to means of enhancing the human rights infrastructure through the expansion of programmes of training and advisory services, by encouraging Governments to avail themselves of assistance, through the active promotion of national and regional institutions, the protection and support for human rights defenders and through enhanced co-ordination with other United Nations bodies.

"Public information activities such as the teaching of human rights in schools, universities and colleges and the promotion of human rights in the workplace should be promoted through a forum such as this.

"Australia would look to a world conference to produce action-oriented proposals for the integration of human rights into strategies for development, peace and security. The conference agenda should take due account of indigenous peoples' rights and concerns.

"There should be effective preparation for the conference in order to ensure substantial outcomes. Preparations should include the establishment of a prepcom of manageable size. Australia would only support the use of the Commission for Human Rights as a prepcom if additional meeting time were allotted for that purpose.

"Opinions from non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, as well as national and regional human rights institutions, should actively be sought in the preparatory phase for the evolution of an effective programme. Active participation by these bodies should also be encouraged."

AUSTRIA

The Government of Austria stated that, "25 years after the Tehran Conference, it would seem appropriate and useful to the Austrian Government to convene a World Conference on Human Rights under the auspices of the United Nations. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that such a conference can only be useful if there are sufficient prospects for its successful outcome and if the conference creates an impulse towards a world-wide improved protection of human rights. Such an impulse would be contingent on the subject to be dealt with by the conference as well as on its preparation. Consequently, given a positive decision, preparations should start immediately. Austria is prepared to participate actively in the preparations".

BOLIVIA

The Government of Bolivia stated that it "fully supports the convening of a world conference on human rights for the purpose of analysing the human rights situation in the world and considering and adopting measures to promote respect for those rights".

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

The Government of the Byelorussian SSR stated that it "supported the idea of convening a world conference on human rights by becoming a sponsor of the corresponding draft resolution. Despite the progress achieved by the United Nations in the attainment of the established goal - promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms - unsolved problems unfortunately still exist in this area and require the constant attention of the United Nations in the future. In view of the need both to make a detailed analysis of what has already been achieved during the implementation of the human rights programme and to determine what still remains to be done in the protection and promotion of human rights in the light of the new tasks which are emerging, the holding of such a conference before 1995 seems inappropriate".

CHAD

The Government of Chad submitted the following views:

"The international environment has been undergoing a significant transformation for several years. Improved East-West relations have created new opportunities to strengthen international peace and security. Thus there has never been a better time to devote special attention to human rights, without which international peace and security could not exist. A world conference on human rights would provide a timely opportunity to approach the question from a less politicized and less ideological perspective, and to highlight the importance of international co-operation in this field. It must be admitted that, despite the adoption of major international human rights instruments, implementation has proved hypothetical or short-lived in some regions of the world.

"This is the case, for example, in South Africa, where the Pretoria régime has constantly been violating human rights through its abject policy of apartheid. Similarly, since 1967 Israel has been committing flagrant violations of human rights in the occupied territories, and has stubbornly refused to apply the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Other aspects of the problem, including torture and mercenary activities, so widespread in certain parts of the world, could also be discussed.

"Chad recognizes the urgent need for a high-level world conference on human rights, which alone can ensure progress in the effective implementation of international norms for the protection of human rights - the source of peace, stability, economic progress and security - and, constantly desiring to improve the conditions of life, work, freedom, security and expression of its people, cannot but support this idea."

CUBA

The Government of Cuba submitted the following views:

"The Government of the Republic of Cuba attaches great importance to the initiative to convene a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights.

"The need for such an international conference is proven by the fact that genuine co-operation in the field of human rights is still a distant goal, for there persists, to an increasing extent, a dangerous tendency to politicize certain issues indiscriminately and, in the case of certain Western countries, to use human rights as tools to facilitate intervention in and attacks on developing countries. This must be stated in the clearest possible terms: the Government of Cuba is concerned that the question of human rights has been distorted from the positive and important issue which it could be into a tool to promote intervention in the internal affairs of States, a façade to conceal coercion and blackmail against sovereign countries or impose patterns and models which bear no relationship to the history and culture of our peoples.

"For Cuba, however, there can be no true enjoyment of human rights unless it goes hand in hand with the exercise of the right to life, work, shelter, education and the other economic, social and cultural rights which are the foundation for the spiritual enrichment of man, not to mention civil and political rights, including the right to self-determination and development as clearly laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter.

"The tragic plight of millions of inhabitants of the third world as a result of underdevelopment and the perpetuation of an unjust international economic order should guide the efforts of the United Nations in this field, and constitutes the difficult challenge which the Organization must confront and resolve. Never has the international community been more convinced that economic and social development and human rights are two complementary aspects of the same goal: the maintenance of peace and justice among nations which is the foundation for the freedom and well-being to which our peoples aspire. Accordingly, the international community must not tolerate attempts to divert its efforts from actions which are necessary in order to undo the evils of centuries of injustice and exploitation that have condemned more than one third of the world's population to hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and premature death. To accept that would be tantamount to abjuring the raison d'être of the United Nations.

"Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Cuba once again endorses the content and scope of General Assembly resolution 32/130 entitled 'Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms', which recognizes the unified and indivisible nature of all human rights. The Government of Cuba also regrets that many of the principles

stated in that resolution have not yet been approached with the full measure of energy and objectivity required.

"The Government of Cuba therefore believes that future work within the United Nations system on human rights matters should focus primarily on the following points pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/130:

(a) All human rights and fundamental freedoms of the human person and of peoples are inalienable;

(b) Consequently, human rights questions should be examined globally, taking into account both the overall context of the various societies in which they present themselves, as well as the need for the promotion of the full dignity of the human person and the development and well-being of the society;

(c) In approaching human rights questions, the international community should accord, or continue to accord, priority to the search for solutions to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights of peoples and persons affected by situations such as those resulting from apartheid, from all forms of racial discrimination, from colonialism, from foreign domination and occupation, from aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, as well as from the refusal to recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination and of every nation to the exercise of full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources;

(d) The realization of the new, equitable international order is an essential element for the effective promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

CYPRUS

The Government of Cyprus submitted the following views:

"The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms has always been an important element of the foreign policy of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus since 1960, when Cyprus attained its independence.

"It is the Government's firm belief that respect for human rights is a necessary condition for the maintenance of international peace and security and that the promotion and protection of human rights should be pursued independently of any political or other considerations.

"It is within this spirit that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, both in its bilateral and multilateral relations, follows a principled and independent human rights policy.

"What is more Cyprus, having experienced the tragic consequences of gross and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of its people for the last 16 years, cannot but reiterate its conviction that the first and foremost task of the international community should be the effective protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"It is for these reasons that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus supports the convening of a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights.

"Such a Conference would in particular examine ways and means of implementing the United Nations resolutions and decisions in the field of human rights and of improving the effectiveness of the human rights procedures and machinery entrusted with the promotion and protection of human rights."

ECUADOR

The Government of Ecuador stated that it "believes it desirable to convene a world conference on human rights to study and suggest measures to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to contribute to the further development of international law in this area".

EGYPT

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt stated that it "supports the convening of an international conference on human rights under the auspices of the United Nations".

EL SALVADOR

The Government of El Salvador stated that it was "in agreement with the convening of a world conference on human rights in accordance with resolution 44/156".

ETHIOPIA

The Government of Ethiopia stated that "in view of the great importance it attaches to the protection and promotion of human rights, the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia supports, in principle, the convening of a world conference on human rights, which hopefully will have as one of its major objectives the enhancement of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations in the field of human rights, with strict adherence to widely recognized norms and principles of international law as enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations".

FIJI

The Government of Fiji expressed "its concurrence to the convening of a world conference on human rights".

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran communicated the following views:

"1. Concerning the fact that the Universal Declaration and international instruments of human rights were formulated without a balanced participation and a deserved share of the Islamic countries, it is necessary that the divergences of human rights in view of Islam with the provisions of international human rights be studied and be taken care of. For the same reason, many Islamic countries face difficulties in implementing some of the provisions of international organizations, for the proper discharge of their duties, to heed to the sublime values of Islam, which has over 1 billion believers throughout the world.

"2. Human rights issue should not serve as a political tool to exert pressure on any State. On the contrary, it should remain a purely humanitarian issue and be used to strengthen the human relations and amelioration of social standards.

"3. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to request that these points be reflected in the agenda of the conference."

IRELAND

The Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva submitted the following views on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community:

"The member States of the European Community would wish to emphasize at the outset their belief that any such conference (world conference on human rights) should take place on the basis of the established corpus of universally recognized principles in the field of human rights.

"The Twelve believe that the main human rights priority in the period ahead lies in ensuring the effective implementation in all countries of the human rights and fundamental freedoms already established in existing international instruments. The proposed world conference should concentrate on this. The conference could focus on the status of ratification, implementation and application of existing human rights instruments at the United Nations level; teaching and training in the field of human rights standards and their world-wide dissemination; creation and strengthening of regional human rights institutions; and strengthening of national human rights institutions and national infrastructure.

"In keeping with the focus on implementation, the conference should pay particular attention to ways of improving the effectiveness of United Nations human rights programmes, including by the strengthening of supervisory machinery, improving information and advisory programmes and ensuring the availability of the necessary financial and other resources. The conference could also consider further the question of the creation of the position of a high commissioner for human rights.

"As adequate preparation is essential to the success of a conference of the kind envisaged, the preparatory process should be organized in a manner likely to facilitate the emergence of specific recommendations across a range of issues aimed at promoting enhanced enjoyment of human rights on a world-wide basis. It should have provision for inputs of those with specialist knowledge or particular relevant experience. We believe that the chairmen of the treaty monitoring bodies, as well as special rapporteurs and working groups concerned with both thematic and country-specific issues have an important contribution to make in this regard.

"Active contribution by non-governmental organizations in the preparatory work and active participation by them at the conference itself would be an essential element in the Twelve's conception of this event."

MAURITIUS

The Government of Mauritius stated that it "welcomes the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to convene a world conference on human rights".

NEW ZEALAND

The Government of New Zealand stated that it "supports the proposal to convene a world conference on human rights. This support was demonstrated by New Zealand's co-sponsorship of (General Assembly) resolution 44/156 entitled 'World conference on human rights'. It is New Zealand's view that it would be appropriate for such a conference to be held in 1993, which would mark 25 years since the Tehran Conference. This would be an opportunity to review progress made since 1968, and to focus on what will be required of the international community to further the promotion and protection of human rights in the coming decades".

PANAMA

The Government of Panama submitted the following views:

"In this connection, I should like to inform you that, in our opinion, the proposal to hold a world conference on human rights should be carried out with the participation of all States. Major achievements could be made in this area in the interests of effective protection of human rights. Our country will offer its full support for the initiative.

"It should also be pointed out that respect for freedom, justice and peace throughout the world is based on recognition of the intrinsic dignity of the human rights of the international community. For this reason, we believe that there should be a concerted effort to ensure that the conference and similar events are held more frequently in order to promote respect for fundamental human freedoms. The results would be to the benefit of all States that have signed the International Covenants on Human Rights."

PARAGUAY

The Government of Paraguay stated that it "considers the convening of a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights to be of great interest for Paraguay. Forums of this kind are in fact very useful means of providing our country with more details about the functioning of the various bodies working on the promotion and protection of human rights and about the special committees established under the human rights covenants already recognized by Paraguay".

PHILIPPINES

The Government of the Philippines stated that it "welcomes the holding of a world conference on human rights, in order to address, and if possible thresh out, in a more restricted forum, the various human rights issues all over the world, and through international co-operation arrive at acceptable solutions and remedies, for the benefit of peoples in all nations, and the alleviation of the plight of victims of ever-increasing human rights violations".

POLAND

The Government of Poland submitted the following views:

"The Government of Poland firmly believes that it would be desirable to convene a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights.

"Poland, is nowadays deeply committed to the full and comprehensive implementation of the international instruments on human rights. It has adopted recently remarkable and important measures aimed at the improvement of the dignity of the human person, giving the force of treaty laws to provisions protecting the human rights as provided for in the International Covenants on Human Rights.

"The scope of recent developments that have taken place in Poland to ensure each citizen conditions enabling them to live in an atmosphere of freedom and dignity bears eloquent witness to the importance Poland attaches

to human rights issues and to United Nations endeavours for peace, security and better conditions for life in larger freedom.

"Notwithstanding the impressive progress that has been made in developing new international human rights instruments since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which first illuminated the organic tissue that weaves together peace, justice, freedom and human rights, there are still serious inadequacies in effectively and impartially guaranteeing the fundamental freedoms and human rights for everyone. The need to reflect upon the international community's achievements and the areas that remain open for progress, to consolidate the recent developments and assess new directions with respect both to machinery and to standards and priority areas, would be both timely and appropriate.

"Today, as we enter a new, far more encouraging era in international co-operation and a new search for international security and social development is taking place, the elaboration of a human rights programme that would deal with these crucial issues might bring an important and promising new contribution to these encouraging developments and to the challenges humanity is facing now, as well as those of the coming century.

"Poland firmly believes that the conference, offering a possibility for a global consultation on the position and approaches of different countries to human rights and fundamental freedoms - will inspire everyone to greater efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights, thereby strengthening the foundations of justice, peace and freedom in the world of the future. Poland is determined to give its utmost to ensure the success of the conference."

QATAR

The Government of Qatar stated that it "is in agreement with the convening of such a conference".

ROMANIA

The Government of Romania stated that it "regards as desirable the initiative to convene a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions of the promotion and protection of human rights in the modern world. In view of the great importance of such a conference, the Government of Romania believes that it should not be convened until after extensive preparatory consultations involving Member States and contributions by the international organizations concerned. For its part, the Government of Romania is ready to make a full contribution to the preparatory work for the meeting".

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stated that it "does not consider a world conference on human rights a priority at this time, in the light of the general improvements in this area over the last decade".

SURINAME

The Government of Suriname stated that it supports the desirability of convening a world conference on human rights.

SWEDEN

The Government of Sweden submitted the following views:

"In view of recent important developments in the field of human rights, including the changes in Central and Eastern Europe and taking into account also the forthcoming enlargement of the Commission on Human Rights, the Swedish Government believes that it would be appropriate to convene a conference on human rights. Human rights have indeed become a major issue in international affairs.

"The basic standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms have been adopted by the international community. These rights and freedoms are of a universal character. It is, however, an undeniable fact that the concept of human rights is not understood in the same way all over the world. Neither are there uniform standards of application of human rights. Therefore, it would seem to be of importance to deepen the dialogue between Member States concerning human rights.

"One major task of a world conference should be to strengthen the implementation of the existing human rights instruments. It would seem natural that the conference review the progress made in the field of human rights and make an evaluation of the existing methods for the protection of human rights and make recommendations in this respect. The importance of inviting United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to the conference should be stressed.

"In order to ensure a successful outcome of a world conference it should be carefully prepared. Taking into consideration other activities in this field, inter alia, in the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, it would perhaps be suitable to convene a world conference on human rights not earlier than in 1994. Possible agenda items, venue of the conference, etc., could be subject to further consideration in the preparations for the conference. Taking into account the financial implications, it would seem appropriate to convene the conference at Geneva, but other alternatives and recommendations can be considered."

SWITZERLAND

The Government of Switzerland submitted the following views:

"Since its establishment, the United Nations has worked steadily towards the goal it has set for itself, namely, promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The General Assembly has produced a number of international instruments covering the various aspects of human rights. It is heartening to note that by ratifying these instruments a growing number of States have committed themselves at the international level to respecting those rights and freedoms.

"In the opinion of Switzerland, however, the real situation of human rights in the world does not yet correspond to the undertakings given and the efforts made by many States to implement human rights and guarantee fundamental freedoms. The mechanisms for monitoring and promotion are insufficiently developed and too unco-ordinated to contribute satisfactorily to greater respect for human rights.

"The problem of the unsatisfactory implementation of the existing standards is one of the crucial questions in this field. A world conference on human rights could be useful if its task was to consider in depth the question of an increased contribution by the United Nations system to improved implementation of the existing standards. This would involve, among other things, developing and co-ordinating the existing monitoring machinery with a view to making it more effective, and discussing the possibilities of intensifying efforts towards dissemination and promotion.

"Switzerland considers, accordingly, that if there is to be a world conference on human rights, its main task should be to enhance the implementation of the existing standards, not to draw up new ones."

TUNISIA

The Government of Tunisia submitted the following views:

"As a participant in the consensus on General Assembly resolution 44/156, entitled 'World conference on human rights', Tunisia cannot but reiterate its agreement in principle as to the importance of holding the conference. Tunisia attaches particular importance to the promotion and protection of human rights at the international level, and is unflagging in its efforts to strengthen and consolidate these rights at the national level. In this connection, it is Tunisia's view that the success of the conference will largely depend on the priorities that will be set for the next few decades and on an effort to achieve greater effectiveness for the means and mechanisms already set in motion in regard to human rights.

"Certain questions of special and immediate importance should receive increased attention from the international community, such as the right to sufficient food and an adequate standard of living, the right to housing and the right to a healthy and balanced environment.

"Thus, in order to establish the appropriate conditions for the success of the conference, the preparatory activities should in the main be based on the widest possible consultations, with the aim of defining and identifying those fields which have not so far been given the necessary importance, reviewing the achievements of the United Nations in regard to human rights and drawing up a strategy for work in the years to come. An objective approach to all these considerations should essentially take into account the development of present trends, but also, and above all, the higher interest of mankind and human welfare."

TURKEY

The Government of Turkey submitted the following views:

"The Turkish Government is committed to pursue the steady and irreversible progress towards highest standards in the field of democracy and human rights. It believes in the merits of achieving international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights. In this context, the Turkish Government supports international efforts to promote human rights, including the idea of convening a world conference on human rights for the purpose of discussing the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Taking into account the progress achieved in this field and the recent positive developments in different parts of the world, the Turkish Government is of the opinion that such a conference may provide a good opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the international community to human rights, as an essential element of the international order.

"The Turkish Government intends to participate actively in the proposed conference as well as in its preparatory work. The Turkish Government believes that the venue and the agenda of the conference must be very carefully determined. Moreover, activities of the Council of Europe and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe should be kept in sight while preparing the agenda and choosing the date of the conference."

ZAIRE

The Government of Zaire submitted the following views:

"The Executive Council considers, first of all, that the time is ripe for holding such a world conference on human rights. Two reasons argue in favour of the conference.

"There is first the fact that about four years ago, States, including the Republic of Zaire, took firm action to promote respect for human rights by setting up special mechanisms for the defence and protection of those rights. There is also, and above all, the wind of political reform - let us call it the wind of 'perestroika' - that has been blowing since the end of last year, not only in the countries of Eastern Europe, dominated hitherto by one party, but also in the countries of the third world, African countries in particular. As far as Zaire is concerned - and this may apply to many African countries affected by 'perestroika' - the fact that the determination to engage in the defence and protection of human rights coincides with the determination to set in motion a thorough-going reform of political institutions through the introduction of a multi-party system will inevitably make it necessary to draw up a kind of inventory of the practical tasks that must be accomplished in order to realize, on the ground, all the aspirations of the people.

"The Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire is of the view that the world conference on human rights would provide a suitable opportunity or forum for such an inventory of the means that will, in the new liberal context, need to be employed to ensure the promotion of human rights. Drawing on its experience with the Department of Citizens' Rights and Freedoms, the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire believes that a world conference on human rights would be the proper occasion for discussing the point which it considers the most essential as regards human rights, namely, how to finance human rights activities in the field.

"The Executive Council is convinced that the human rights situation throughout the world cannot be improved by criticism - no matter how useful - or by lengthy reports and so forth, but only by concrete material and financial co-operation. If that point is accepted, it is high time that the terms of such effective co-operation should be discussed at the kind of meeting proposed by General Assembly resolution 44/156. The desirability of holding a world conference on human rights is demonstrated not only by the quasi-embryonic nature of the 'advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights' (cf. 'Fortieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948-1988', fact sheet No. 3), but still more by the slender proportion of the United Nations budget (less than 1 per cent) devoted to human rights."

III. VIEWS SUBMITTED BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) stated that it supports "in principle the convening of a world conference on human rights. We trust that full consultation, in particular of the specialized agencies concerned, will be ensured in the preparation and adoption of the agenda of such a conference. It is also hoped that the specialized agencies will be able to contribute actively and participate in the presentation and discussion of questions falling within their areas of concern".

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) submitted the following views:

> "There is general agreement that human rights issues are of fundamental importance to all nations. A properly timed and carefully prepared world conference on human rights could contribute to increasing awareness of major issues (e.g., on refugees) and give an impetus to furthering the application of human rights standards to all. The idea of a world conference is therefore welcome. The preparation of such a conference should take into account earlier work and build upon earlier declarations of international principles, policy sets and strategies, such as, in FAO's purview, the Food Security Compact, the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, the Principles adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), those principles and resolutions to be produced by the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), etc.
>
> "Our immediate concern regarding human rights is combating hunger and alleviating poverty, and taking care of human resources development, which are central to the international development strategy. We also feel that the world conference on human rights should pay due regard to these aspects and focus on translating the entire set of human rights into practical instruments and concentrate on the design of practical means for attaining human rights. One of the important means of enabling people to assert their rights is people's participation, which therefore merits particular attention."

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that "the Director-General considers that the organization of such a conference would indeed be timely and desirable. Having regard to the scope of the commitment of UNESCO to the protection and promotion of human rights, our contribution to the conference could cover the following subjects:

"(a) The procedure adopted by the Executive Board for the examination of cases and questions submitted to UNESCO concerning violations of human rights in the spheres of its competence;

"(b) Human rights teaching, information and documentation;

"(c) Protection of human rights of specific social or professional categories (women, scientists, artists, etc.);

"(d) Apartheid".

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) stated that it had carefully considered the request for views on the convening of a world conference. "mindful in particular of the fact that WHO, in accordance with its Constitution, has long asserted the principle that health is a fundamental human right. In his statement to the forty-third World Health Assembly on 8 May 1990, the Director-General said:

"As we enter the decade of the 1990s, human rights, social justice and ethical issues will become more and more important. Human rights in health and medicine must be seen within the wider framework of basic human rights, for the rights of the patient are the rights of man. They involve three related issues: freedom of expression and the right to be informed; respect for the integrity of the individual, including freedom to decide; and prohibition of discrimination of any kind. In the 1990s, I intend to emphasize the human rights aspects of health in all our programme activities.

"We are encouraged that the issue of human rights has come to the forefront of international attention during the past several months. Should the majority of other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system wish to support the initiative, we would be willing to join forces for its success."

THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank stated that "the Bank's basic objective is the economic development of its developing members, including the reduction of poverty. The Bank is thus engaged in helping in the satisfaction of basic social and economic human rights and would be pleased to consider participating in the proposed conference, should it be convened".

IV. VIEWS SUBMITTED BY UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND BODIES

CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID

The Centre Against Apartheid stated that "under the prevailing circumstances in the world and the present political climate, the role of the United Nations in the protection of human rights is acquiring increasing importance. As part of the Secretariat, the Centre Against Apartheid cannot but strongly support the holding of a world conference on human rights".

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its forty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted decision 1990/110, in which it decided, without a vote, that it would be desirable to convene a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Committee "was of the view that convening a world conference on human rights could be helpful not only in promoting human rights but also in generating additional resources for the protection of human rights. It could also serve as an important forum for discussing persistent violations of human rights and provide a possibility for applying pressure to certain offending régimes".

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The following views were submitted on behalf of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:

"Need for a world conference

"The value of a world conference on human rights would be to ensure that the world community is informed of the extent of the hardship now endured by many people because their basic human rights have not been met, and of the need for international co-operation to improve the situation. Such a conference should emphasize that human rights are a global concern.

"Alongside widespread abuse of power and denial of rights, poverty and deprivation continue to affect millions of people. In addition to causing misery, death and disease, poverty contributes to environmental damage as States exploit finite natural resources in an effort to provide people with basic standards of living and to meet crippling burdens of debt. These are matters which demand the attention of all States and peoples.

"Importance of women's rights

"The impact of poverty and deprivation is especially severe on women and children. Women throughout the world have responsibility for food production, for child care and health. Their education and economic independence is a vital link in maintaining standards of living. Nevertheless, as a result of widespread discrimination, women do not enjoy equal opportunities in education, training and employment. Nor do they have an equal opportunity to participate in development. This discrimination helps to perpetuate poverty and deprivation.

"Both poverty and armed conflict have resulted in many women becoming refugees or forced migrants, subject to further exploitation and deprivation. International action is needed to protect women from this kind of oppression.

"The underrepresentation of women in decision-making roles in national and international institutions contributes to a distortion of priorities in the field of human rights. In history, women have often been the victims of human rights abuse, seldom the perpetrators. These issues which affect millions of women should be given high priority in any human rights agenda.

"Key human rights issues:

"Signficant human issues which could be included in an agenda for a world conference are the following:

"(a) Economic, social and cultural rights: the need for international co-operation to make these rights a reality, and to establish a proper balance between these rights and environmental protection;

"(b) Equality of women: the need to involve women as policy makers at international and national level, to ensure appropriate priority in dealing with human rights issues;

"(c) Poverty, and the need for international co-operation and appropriate development to ensure that basic standards in food, shelter and health care are met for all people;

"(d) Education and training of women to ensure that their abilities are used to the full in combating poverty and to ensure their full participation in development;

"(e) Employment opportunities, social security and economic independence for women.

"Supervisory machinery

"Effective international machinery is necessary to identify human rights problems and to provide advice and assistance to States in resolving these problems. The supervisory machinery and the reporting processes under the

different United Nations conventions need to be strengthened and made more effective in line with recent proposals. Appropriate co-operation between the supervisory bodies should be encouraged. In particular, the relationship between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other supervisory bodies should be strengthened.

"It would assist States in fulfilling their obligations under human rights conventions if the reporting processes could be rationalized to avoid duplication of effort, both on the part of States and on the part of the treaty bodies and their secretariats. For example, all basic information, statistics, etc. should be readily available through a central system.

"Role of non-governmental organizations

"A world conference would be a suitable opportunity to consider ways of enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in the human rights system. Their work in identifying issues and drawing them to the attention of supervisory bodies has already been of great assistance and should be given further recognition."

MEETING OF CHAIRPERSONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

The 3rd meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990, included the following comment in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session:

"The proposed world conference on human rights, if adequately prepared, could make a major contribution to furthering the overall objectives of the United Nations in the human rights field. The work of the treaty bodies should be fully reflected in the agenda, the preparation of which should be done in consultation with those bodies as far as possible. A detailed evaluation of the work of each of the treaty bodies should be prepared by individual experts as part of the background documentation for the conference."

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

At its forty-second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted, on 30 August 1990, its decision 1990/144, in which it decided to submit document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/NGO/3 to the Secretary-General to be studied within the framework of the definition of objectives and modalities of a world conference on human rights. The relevant part of that document is reproduced below:

"Guidelines for the world conference on human rights

"1. The conference should be convened in 1993, if possible, and in a country that has recently made substantial progress in the achievement of human rights and development.

"2. The conference should aim at producing concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of United Nations activities in the field of human rights, including proposals for new institutional and financial arrangements.

"3. The theme of the conference should be: 'New challenges for human rights in the twenty-first century'.

"4. The specific objectives of the conference should include:

"(a) A thorough interdisciplinary evaluation of the effectiveness of existing multilateral mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights;

"(b) Formulation of proposals for new implementation mechanisms, with particular attention to the future operational aspects of the United Nations human rights programme;

"(c) Anticipation of the future personnel and financial needs of the United Nations human rights programme, and ascertaining the best means of meeting these needs fully;

"(d) Identification of innovative ways of improving co-ordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights, in particular through linkages among programmes in the fields of development, peace, and the environment; and

"(e) Implementation of the recommendations of the Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right (E/CN.4/1990/9).

"5. The Economic and Social Council should serve as the preparatory committee for the conference and should establish an in-sessional working group for this purpose. The chairmen of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and the human rights treaty bodies should be invited to participate in all preparatory meetings.

"6. In preparation for the conference, the Secretary-General should:

"(a) Invite widely recognized independent experts from different academic disciplines and different political, economic and cultural systems to prepare studies and recommendations on the objectives of the conference, to be completed and distributed to the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and the human rights treaty bodies prior to the forty-seventh session of the Commission;

"(b) Convene a preparatory conference of recognized experts in the fields of law, development planning, social development and related fields, as well as governmental and non-governmental representatives, to consider and report on problems and opportunities for the future of the United Nations human rights programme;

"(c) Organize a formal consultation of professional staff from the United Nations programmes concerned with human rights, development and the environment, as well as appropriate specialized agencies, with the aim of preparing proposals for consideration by the conference.

"7. Preparations should begin at least two years in advance of the conference and should be co-ordinated by the Centre for Human Rights.

"8. Non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to submit concrete written proposals to the Economic and Social Council as part of the preparatory process for the conference, and should be invited to attend both the preparatory meetings and the conference itself, as observers.

"9. Governments and non-governmental organizations should be urged to conduct national-level consultations with the widest possible spectrum of grass-roots constituencies, such as women, youth, industrial and rural workers, indigenous peoples, and particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, and to summarize these consultations in written reports to the conference."

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that its "involvement in the question of human rights principally comes through the operational support to be provided for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Should the General Assembly choose to launch such a conference, it would be our hope that this Convention would be an important focus, and that countries would come to the Conference with specific country level action plans for the implementation of this Convention. In this regard our experience is that such preparatory efforts, if they are to be meaningful, require country, regional and thematic preparatory processes drawing upon a broad range of expertise and social groups. In short, such a conference should be more of a process than a meeting. Naturally, the same applies to the follow-up of any such conference".

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that it "wishes to lend its full support to this proposal and agrees that it would be an appropriate time to conduct a review of what has been accomplished through the human rights programme, to identify areas for further progress and to focus interntaional attention on human rights concerns at the highest level. Human rights considerations are directly relevant across the spectrum of the refugee problem from causes of exodus, to treatment in countries of asylum and realizing

durable solutions. A world human rights conference could therefore be of direct benefit to us in our work on behalf of refugees. We would hope that refugee concerns would find an appropriate place in the Conference agenda".

V. VIEWS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International stated that it:

"Attaches the highest importance to the United Nations work in promoting respect for human rights. We would like to raise a number of points that may be of use in identifying the objectives of the proposed Conference.

"Amnesty International believes that one of the challenges before the international community today is to ensure the effective implementation of the body of international human rights standards which the United Nations has elaborated, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights. It is a matter of concern to us that over one third of Member States have yet to ratify or accede to the international covenants, although they were adopted, without a vote, by the General Assembly almost 25 years ago. We therefore believe that an international conference on human rights should provide a practical forum to discuss how to attain universal ratification of the international covenants and other important human rights instruments. It should also look at ways to improve the implementation of international standards, including the work of treaty monitoring bodies and the means by which the United Nations can further its own work for the protection of victims.

"With such an agenda in mind, Amnesty International considers an international conference should utilize the knowledge and experience the United Nations has gained to date in examining these questions. The Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, both have an important role to play in seeking the promotion of respect for human rights and the protection of the victims of human rights violations. For example, the Commission has for a number of years appointed special rapporteurs and representatives to look at particular situations where human rights are violated, and also at the scope and extent of practices which amount to serious abuses. Amnesty International considers an international conference could usefully examine the experiences of these procedures, with a view to considering how they may be improved and strengthened."

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* The full text of the replies are available for consultation with the Secretariat.

Amnesty International also stated that the recommendations of meetings of chairpersons of treaty monitoring bodies and the study of the independent expert on long-term approaches to the effective implementation of human rights instruments "would provide suitable material on which to base a discussion of ways in which the implementation of international standards could be improved".

Amnesty International also stated that consideration could be given to an examination and evaluation of the current effectiveness of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights in meeting its objectives. To faciliate discussion:

> "Amnesty international recommends that any such international conference should be structured in such a way as to enable persons with expertise in the respective fields to take part in in-depth discussions. These would need to include government officials most integrally involved in human rights promotion and protection, independent experts, members of all the United Nations departments involved in this field, United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. In addition, we believe that it would be essential for non-governmental organizations working on human rights issues to be able to participate actively and fully in any such conference.
>
> "Finally, ... we would urge most strongly that the extensive preparations required for such a conference should not rely on existing resources, which are needed for the United Nations to carry out its current human rights activities."

COMMISSION OF THE CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs stated that it "considers it important for the United Nations to look afresh at the issues and challenges in the area of human rights. Such a meeting should review both shifts in global concepts of human rights definition and practice, and the mechanisms by which United Nations bodies review and act on particular issues and situations. Therefore, we welcome the proposal for such a meeting and would support actions towards such a goal, assuring also full and appropriate participation by non-governmental organizations".

FOUR DIRECTIONS COUNCIL

The Four Directions Council submitted a memorandum of its views, in which it reviewed the development of the United Nations human rights programme, including its structure, its cost, the available resources and the need for a greater integration of human rights into development activities. The Four Directions Council stated that:

> "In view of the growing demands made on the human rights programme, the new challenges and obstacles it will face in the next century, and the unresolved problem of financial resources, there is an urgent need to identify

and strengthen its most effective activities, and to consider possible alternatives.

"To be effective, an evaluation and consideration of alternatives must be based on thorough study of the existing programme, provide adequate time and resources for the formulation of detailed proposals, and seek a genuine consensus among Member States. A global conference, with at least two years of preparatory work, would meet these criteria far better than the use of in-sessional working groups of the Commission on Human Rights.

"We believe that the specific objectives of such a conference would be:

"(a) A thorough interdisciplinary evaluation of the effectiveness of existing multilateral mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights;

"(b) Formulating proposals for new implementation mechanisms, with particular attention to the potential future operational aspects of the human rights programme, in the light of the report of the Global Consultation on the Right to Development (E/CN.4/1990/9);

"(c) Anticipating the programme's future staffing and financial needs, and agreeing on the best means to meet those needs fully;

"(d) Identifying ways of improving linkages between the human rights programme and United Nations activities in the fields of development, peace, and the environment.

"We further believe that the preparatory process should emphasize the preparation of rigorous analytical studies by social scientists, as opposed to legal studies. This should include a number of individual research mandates, as well as at least one technical review conference involving governmental and non-governmental experts, well in advance of the world conference itself.

"We also suggest that the Economic and Social Council itself serve as the preparatory committee, with the chairs of the human rights supervisory bodies participating ex officio, to maximize co-ordination and minimize preparatory costs.

"In conclusion, then, we regard the proposal for a world conference on human rights as timely and, if the conference is properly aimed at the challenge of redesigning the human rights programmes for the future, potentially useful. However, we would view a largely academic or legal conference, or one that lacks substantial technical preparation, as an inefficient use of the United Nations limited resources."

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty stated that it "earnestly hopes that a conference of this kind will be organized. Despite the important results that the various United Nations bodies have achieved in the promotion and protection of human rights, millions of people are still prevented from enjoying all their fundamental rights and freedoms. If we truly wish to build a world of peace and justice, there must be education about the fundamental rights and freedoms that must be respected in practice. A world conference would make it possible to draw the attention of Governments, and also of the media and public opinion, to the vital importance of respect for human rights. It could also draw attention to the progress that still needs to be made in particular areas - including that of the right to freedom of opinion, conscience and religion - areas where the preparation of international instruments is required. In the last few years, we have witnessed manifestations of religious fanaticism that grow worse every day. This fanaticism challenges not only the right to freedom of opinion and religion, but also a whole series of other fundamental rights and freedoms".

The Association further stated that "the proposed world conference could provide an opportunity for dealing with this crucial question and for taking a stand on behalf of effective and universal respect for that freedom, which is at the origin of all other freedoms, and is the foundation on which true democracy rests".

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PENAL LAW

The International Association of Penal Law submitted a draft programme for a world conference on human rights containing the following main themes: self-determination and minority rights; protection of fundamental human rights through international criminal law; the human right to development; the human right to a clean environment; State responsibility for human rights violations, the effectiveness of regional human rights implementation and assessment; protection against discrimination; the protection of children; protection of the rights of the mentally ill; access to justice for the protection of human rights; human rights education; and human rights and the mass media.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

The International Council of Jewish Women stated that, in their view such a world conference on human rights could be useful, "providing it is not a mere replica of the Commission on Human Rights, in both its framework and agenda.

> "(a) As for the framework, we believe it should indeed be that of a conference at the highest level. However, we would suggest it to start with an analytical session, in which internationally renowned human rights' Experts would expose their views on the more important questions facing the United Nations today concerning human rights. Those Experts should not only be jurists, but sociologists, historians and politial scientists as well, in order to provide a multidisciplinary approach to the subject of the conference.

"(b) With relation to the agenda, we think it should not deal with specific country situations since this is already done in the Commission on Human Rights. The question of implementation and of the ways and means of improving existing human rights' mechanisms should be given priority, as well as that of defining the new challenges lying ahead, as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 44/156.

"Finally, we trust that the non-governmental organizations will be invited to make a significant output in this important manifestation."

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION

The International Catholic Migration Commission stated that it: "regards the holding of a world conference on human rights envisaged by the United Nations General Assembly as very desirable".

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions stated that it:

"Would welcome the holding of such a conference as it would certainly further promote the application of human rights as enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights. We consider it most timely to take stock of achievements and continued failures. However, such a conference could be confronted with an agenda reflecting the vast variety of rights, as well as a vast variety of contexts and philosophies. The outcome, therefore, may not be optimal. We believe that the conference and its organizirg organ must have a clear mandate and a precise agenda. We would favour a conference on human rights to focus on selected particular areas of problems.

"As an international trade union organization, we are involved on a daily basis in human and trade union rights. Individually and collectively, workers and trade unionists are under attack, often persecuted, imprisoned or killed. Given that the largest part of any population consists of people whose livelihood depends on remunerative work and given that it is they and their freely chosen organizations who represent the most important factor in society for economic and social progress and security, we strongly recommend to include freedom of association and trade union rights in the crucial questions to be dealt with at the highest level at the proposed world conference. I enclose a copy of our recent publication 'Survey of violations of Trade Union Rights' by way of background information."

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT INTERNATIONAL

The Christian Democrat International stated that the convening of a world conference on human rights:

"Seems to us highly desirable and has our firm support. Our participation is guaranteed.

"We consider that the conference should include among its objectives the following:

(a) To draw up a balance sheet of what has been accomplished so far as regards standard-setting and practical implementation. To indicate clearly those areas where the work of the United Nations is inadequate or insufficient;

(b) To review the whole range of declarations, resolutions, covenants, agreements and other instruments of the United Nations system, with a view to bringing them up to date and suggesting areas where they should be supplemented or revised;

(c) To establish specific goals and set a timetable for achieving them within a reasonable period of time (a programme for the next 10 years would be desirable), in accordance with priorities to be established not only on the basis of the urgency or magnitude of the problem, but also on the basis of the multiplier effect that possible measures might have."

The Christian Democrat International mentioned the following areas of particular concern to them: minors, protection of minorities, elimination of discrimination, protection of journalists, right of asylum and protection of refugees, combating doctrines and practices of imperialism, colonialism and interventionism, guarantees for multi-party democracy, right to development, terrorism, establishing rules preventing the manipulation of non-governmental organizations for political reasons and the establishment of a high commissioner for human rights.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION TERRE DES HOMMES

The International Federation Terre des Hommes stated that "respect for human rights is the foundation of all democratic nations seeking to establish a system of social justice. Human rights are also one of the foundations of the United Nations and should therefore be discussed at the highest level. The Federation agrees with the statement in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 44/156 that there are still areas in which further progress needs to be made. It also hopes that the future international conference on human rights will devote equal attention to civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development".

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law stated that it "is much in favour of the organization of this conference because the events which occurred in particular this year in the world confirm the necessity of such a conference. We do hope that the non-governmental organization system will be actively involved in

this conference and our Institute also wishes to prepare a small contribution concerning our activities in the promotion, dissemination and teaching of human rights at the national and international level".

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF EDUCATION

The International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education stated:

"Our Organization considers it highly important that this meeting, which would make it possible to work more specifically for the defence and promotion of human rights, should be convened. I can assure you of the Organization's readiness to co-operate closely with the Centre for Human Rights in the work of the conference.

"In our view, the conference should be attended by Governments, non-governmental organizations and academic experts on human rights. Two general topics strike us as being particularly important: the interdependence between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, and the universal nature of human rights. The recent political changes in Eastern Europe should make it possible to hold a real debate and achieve substantial agreements on these fundamental points, far removed from yesterday's ideological prejudices."

PLANETARY CITIZENS

Planetary Citizens stated:

"The Organization firmly believes in the necessity to deal with crucial human rights issues at the highest level, and that a "world conference", with adequate preparation, and with high-level representation, could make a significant contribution to the advancement of human rights at a time when new freedoms and their exercise are being sought, and when many of the most fundamental human rights continue to be flagrantly violated.

"The Organization further believes it is more than ever necessary to reaffirm that both civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights are of equal significance, importance and value."

PRISON FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Prison Fellowship International stated it concurred "in the desirability of convening a world conference on the vital questions of human rights, and we urge that such a conference have on its agenda the status of prisoners and criminal justice systems in respect to those matters. At the same time, because of the religious principles that undergird our work, we urge that the conference also

attend to the critical questions of religious freedom in all societies. Religious freedom is itself essential to human dignities and rights, such that the restriction or erosion of religious freedom is in fact a kind of oppression and imprisonment of the human spirit".

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Soroptimist International stated it "would support the proposal and would define 1996 as being an appropriate target date, in order that such a Conference may have before it the outcome of the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development, with its relevance to the right to development, any proposals arising from the activities related to 1994 as the International Year of the Family, and 1995, with its emphasis on women and the further review of women's concerns based on the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women".

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD FEDERATION

The World Association for World Federation stated:

"We believe that a well-prepared world conference on human rights would be a major contribution to the international law decade. We also believe that non-governmental organizations can make a real contribution to such a conference and should be involved both in the preparation and in the Conference itself. We think that a special effort should be made to involve legal and bar associations which do not usually participate as non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission and the Treaty bodies.

"We believe that regional human rights bodies such as the European and Inter-American should be asked to participate both in planning and in the Conference. Special efforts should be made to have law students from a wide number of Law schools be able to monitor the Conference."

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR

The World Confederation of Labour expressed its support for the world conference and submitted the following views:

"1. Need to pursue the promotion and protection of human rights

...

The human rights situation has undoubtedly improved in the last few years, which is heartening. In reviewing the situation, however, the world conference on human rights should take care not to lose sight of the need to

pursue the promotion and protection of human rights, in spite of the generally satisfactory situation.

...

Today more than ever it is necessary that all Member States should ratify and implement all the international instruments relating to human rights. Unfortunately, most of the permanent members of the Security Council have not ratified these instruments - far from it. This leads many developing countries to say that the human rights issue is being used by the great Powers to destabilize the countries of the South.

"2. Promotion and defence of social, economic and cultural rights

In evaluating activities for the defence and promotion of human rights, the conference will certainly not fail to note that, so far, the United Nations and its Member States have emphasized, and concentrated their efforts on, the protection and promotion of civil and political rights. Given the widespread and repeated flagrant violations of these rights, this could not be otherwise.

Nevertheless, the World Confederation of Labour notes - as the conference will certainly not fail to do - that it is not only a matter of great importance, but at the present time a matter of urgency to promote and defend social, economic and cultural rights, without which civil and political rights cannot be guaranteed.

...

It seems to us essential that a conference of this kind should give the United Nations system the means necessary for the real and concrete implementation of these rights and for the establishment of monitoring mechanisms, and should see to it that the structures of the United Nations system do not transmit policies that are harmful to respect for and implementation of these rights.

"3. Participation of non-governmental organizations

In order that the conference may be representative of the real world, we strongly urge that those men and women who are actors and agents in the defence and promotion of human rights should be able to take part in it.

Such participation should be a factor not only during the actual conference, but also throughout the preparatory phase, whether at the national or the international level. We are in favour of the widest possible participation by non-governmental organizations at all preparatory levels, including trade-union organizations, churches, federations of teachers,

lecturers and the like, as well as women and representatives of minority groups.

The United Nations might suggest to Member States that they should include in their delegations representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as women and spokespersons for minority groups."

WORLD MOVEMENT OF MOTHERS

The World Movement of Mothers stated that:

"It is our considered opinion that a world conference is one of the least effective ways of promoting the cause of human rights. The usual procedure in world conferences, as evidenced on too many occasions during the past several decades, is for certain countries to denounce and condemn others in a 'holier than thou' exercise, usually totally unjustified, since many of the accusers are themselves far more at fault than those they condemn.

"The International Year of the Child in 1979 was a success with real effect on public opinion in most countries precisely because there was no world conference. World conferences represent irresistible temptations to too many Governments to denounce, declaim, condemn (and thereby appear on the side of the angels themselves).

"If there must be conferences, and if the United Nations sincerely desires progress and not mere politicizing, then limited regional conferences among nations whose problems are alike, and which can, therefore, conceivably benefit from discussing these together in a cimate of mutual trust instead of one of sadly motivated prejudice, might actually bear fruit. The United Nations might really further the cause of human rights on a practical level instead of spending a good deal of money on providing a tribune for vain and self-justifying speeches. Moreover, evaluation and follow-up to such limited regional conferences would be both easier and more efficient."

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

World conference on human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

II. VIEWS SUBMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS

Jamaica

The Ministry on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica sumbitted the following information:

"The Ministry is of the opinion that the United Nations has been the driving force behind initiatives to improve the standards of human life globally. It would therefore be appropriate for any international conference on human rights to be held under the auspices of the United Nations.

"The Ministry notes that the United Nations has been responsible for the comprehensive formulation and codification of the rules and norms of international law surrounding human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"These documents represent the generally accepted international standards of human rights and freedoms that must be adopted and established with varying degrees of success in different countries.

"While there is general acceptance of the standards laid down by the United Nations, developing countries in particular are unable, although not necessarily unwilling, to achieve the standards, especially economic ones, being set out because of a lack of resources to enable them to do so.

"These developing countries find it difficult to meet the most basic needs of their peoples, such as the right to food (article 22 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and the right to work and the right to an adequate standard of living (articles 6 and 11 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, respectively).

"The Ministry recognizes that the ability of a country to achieve a high standard of respect for human rights within that State bears a direct relation to the economic resources available to it. The fact has been alluded to in article 2, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

"It has been acknowldeged that the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights can only be achieved if there is economic development in countries suffering some of the worst abuses.

"It is important therefore for a forum to be devised to look at the long-term fulfilment of the aims and standards of the United Nations through the formulation of proper human development strategies that include programmes for the requisite economic development of the less developed countries.

"The sweeping changes across Eastern Europe must also be considered as a catalyst for the renewal of efforts to promote higher standards of respect for human rights in these countries. The democratization of these States makes it imperative that they be encouraged to achieve international standards in according the fullest respect for fundamental rights and freedoms of their peoples.

"There is also a need to look at the difference between the United Nations standards and those of the other regional Conventions, such as the Council of Europe's European Convention on Human Rights and its Five Protocols and the Organization of American State's American Convention on Human Rights. These Conventions must be examined with a view to consolidating the regional standards of human rights and United Nations standards in order to achieve the goals set out above.

"The Ministry believes that this forum would also be appropriate at this time, because it would provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the changes and developments in human rights throughout the world over the past 20 years.

"It is therefore submitted that Jamaica would support the convening of a world conference on human rights as proposed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/156 of 15 December 1989."